



Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany at a news conference held with President Barack Obama in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Feb. 9, 2015. The leaders discussed the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and arming Ukrainian fighters to wage a more effective battle against Russian-backed separatists. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

An advertisement for Shiva's Gold & Gems. The top half of the ad shows five different rings: three with large square-cut diamonds and two with large yellow gemstones, all set in white metal. The Shiva's logo is at the bottom left of the ring display. Below the rings, the text reads: 'L.G. Smith Blvd. #94 Royal Plaza Mall, Oranjestad, Aruba Tel: (297) 583-4077 - Fax: (297) 582-6791 E-mail: shivasaruba@setarnet.aw - www.shivasjewelers.com'. In the center, it says '(2 Locations)'. To the right, it says 'L.G. Smith Blvd. #95 Palm Beach Plaza Mall, Palm Beach, Aruba Tel: (297) 583-4077 - Fax: (297) 582-6791 E-mail: shivasaruba@setarnet.aw - www.shivasjewelers.com'.

An advertisement for Shiva's Gold & Gems. The top half of the ad features the Shiva's logo in a large, bold, black font with a yellow 'Sh'. Below the logo, it says 'GOLD & GEMS'. A yellow banner across the middle of the ad reads 'With every purchase of US \$500.00 or more'. Below the banner, the text reads 'receive a FREE pair of diamond stud earrings.' with a small scissors icon indicating a cut line. At the bottom right, there is a photograph of a pair of diamond stud earrings.

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Obama: Time has come for Iran to decide on nukes

NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Monday that the time has come for Iran to decide whether to accept a nuclear deal, and he acknowledged "very real differences" with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the negotiations.

In a campaign speech, Netanyahu criticized the international negotiations with Iran and portrayed his scheduled address to the U.S. Congress next month as an attempt to describe Israel's objections.

"A bad deal with Iran is forming in Munich that will endanger Israel's existence," Netanyahu said, referring to talks over the weekend in Germany between Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart. "Therefore I am determined to go to Washington and present Israel's position before the members of Congress and the American people."

Obama said the world powers negotiating with Iran are unified in their offer, while acknowledging the forceful opposition from Netanyahu.

"I don't want to be coy — the prime minister and I have a very real difference around Iran's sanctions," Obama said at a White House news conference with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, another party to the talks. □

Obama, Merkel express unity on Ukraine crisis

J. DAVIS
A. HIGGINS
© 2015 New York Times

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama said he was weighing providing lethal weapons to Ukraine to help Kiev defend against

ence with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the White House on Monday, the president said it was clear a set of steep sanctions against Russia "has not yet dissuaded Mr. Putin from following the course

though we have suffered a lot of setbacks," Merkel said. "I've always said I don't see a military solution to this conflict." The issue has threatened to cleave what has until now been a united front among

"There's going to continue to be a strong, unified response between the United States and Europe - that's not going to change," Obama said.

The two leaders spoke after European foreign ministers agreed to postpone imposing a new round of sanctions against Russia, hoping to avert a rift with the United States over sending arms.

European governments decided to expand the list of sanctioned individuals who are facing asset freezes and travel bans after pro-Russian rebels mounted a rocket attack late last month on the port city of Mariupol, killing about 30 Ukrainian civilians.

The sanctions apply currently to more than 130 Russians and Ukrainian separatist leaders backed by Russia.

As Europe pushes for a diplomatic settlement to the Ukraine crisis, the Obama administration is weighing whether to send arms to help Ukraine's military counter an offensive by the pro-Russian rebels in the east. Most European countries, including Germany and France, oppose sending arms, arguing that doing so would only add fuel to the fire.

Even generally pro-American nations like the Netherlands are skeptical about the wisdom of sending weapons.

"I don't think it is the moment right now," said the Dutch foreign minister, Bert Koenders. "We really need to come to a political solution." □



President Barack Obama gestures during a joint news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015. The leaders discussed the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and arming Ukrainian fighters to wage a more effective battle against Russian-backed separatists.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Russia's aggression if diplomatic efforts fail to defuse the tensions there, even as he said the United States remained united with Europe in maintaining sanctions against Moscow.

"The prospect for a military solution to this problem has always been low," Obama said, given the extraordinarily powerful military that is at the disposal of President Vladimir Putin of Russia and the length of Russia's border with Ukraine.

Still, at a joint news confer-

ence with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the White House on Monday, the president said it was clear a set of steep sanctions against Russia "has not yet dissuaded Mr. Putin from following the course

though we have suffered a lot of setbacks," Merkel said. "I've always said I don't see a military solution to this conflict."

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Supreme Court refuses to block gay marriage in Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court refused to block same-sex marriages in Alabama on Monday, an order that one dissenting justice said could be seen as a signal that his colleagues have already decided gay and lesbian couples have

a right to marry nationwide. Alabama, one of the country's most conservative states, began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples promptly after the Supreme Court let a hold that a federal judge had placed on gay marriages expire.

The Alabama order comes as the Supreme Court heads toward a potentially historic, nationwide ruling on the divisive social issue. Last month, the high court announced it would hear arguments on whether gay couples have a right to marry everywhere in



Nichole Brooks joins supporters of gay marriage outside the Mobile County probate court in Mobile, Ala., Monday morning, Feb. 9, 2015. The U.S. Supreme Court denied the Alabama attorney general's request to further delay a ruling that overturned the state's ban on gay marriage Monday, and many probate judges began issuing licenses in defiance of an order from the state's chief justice.

(Jeff Haller/The New York Times)



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America, and a decision is expected by late June. In a dissenting opinion, conservative Justice Clarence Thomas criticized his colleagues for refusing to block same-sex marriages in Alabama until the high court resolves the issue nationwide. Thomas said the court's Alabama order could be seen as a signal that the justices already have decided they will declare that same-sex couples have a right to marry under the Constitution. Alabama became the 37th U.S. state where gays can legally wed. Same-sex matrimony is now banned in only 13 of the 50 states, following a flurry of legal victories for gay marriage advocates in recent years. Two-thirds of Americans now live in states where gay marriage is legal. A federal judge in January ruled that the Alabama ban was unconstitutional but she put a hold on the order until Monday to give the state time to appeal. Alabama Attorney General

Luther Strange had asked the Supreme Court to extend the hold because of the high court's expected nationwide ruling on gay marriage. Shortly after the Supreme Court's decision, probate judges in the southern state began granting licenses to couples, some of whom had been lined up for hours and exited courthouses to applause from supporters. "I figured that we would be that last ones — I mean, they would drag Alabama kicking and screaming to equality," said Laura Bush, who married Dee Bush in a ceremony in a park outside the courthouse in Birmingham after receiving a license. Gay marriage remains deeply divisive in Alabama. In a statement, Gov. Robert Bentley noted that the Supreme Court would rule on this issue later and said, "I am disappointed that a single Federal court judge disregarded the vote of the Alabama people to define marriage as between a man and woman." □



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Bush set to release emails ahead of likely White House bid

S. PEOPLES
T. BEAUMONT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush declared a singular focus on a potential White House bid Monday and said he is ready to release thousands of emails and the first chapter of a related e-book intended to highlight his compassionate leadership style and conservative credentials.

Bush, the son and brother of former presidents, has yet to announce his political intentions, but he has been among the most aggressive Republican presidential prospects in recent weeks. Although many months remain until the first votes are cast in the presidential race, Democrats are already trying to stop Bush from defining himself as a reformer who aims to close the gap between the rich and poor. They have drawn unflattering comparisons between him and 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. There is no overwhelming

favorite for the Republican nomination. But Romney's recent decision to not run in 2016 could be a boost for Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who were competing for the support of the Republican Party's establishment-minded voters and donors. The eventual Republican nominee will likely face Hillary Rodham Clinton, the clear leader for the Democratic nomination, should she decide to enter the race.

During a conference call, Bush cited the support from his family as he eyes the 2016 campaign.

"Thanks to the support that I have from my beloved wife and family, my life is totally focused on this," he said. Bush said he would release the materials on Tuesday.

While many news outlets previously obtained the emails from Bush's time in office, the former two-term governor suggested his interaction with constituents and staff would help shape his message in a prospective presidential campaign. "One of things that came

out this was a sense there is a story to be told here," Bush said, describing "a style of leadership that tried

In what was a revealing look inside Bush's thinking, he called on his allies to show respect and demon-

"Because our message was maybe too harsh or our harsher voices are the ones that seem to have



Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks in Detroit. Bush declared a singular focus on a potential White House bid Monday and said he is ready to release thousands of emails intended to highlight his compassionate leadership style and conservative credentials.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

to help people." Bush spoke in more depth than he had previously about the themes that would define a potential campaign.

strate hopefulness among Hispanic voters and other groups that have shrunk as part of the Republican electorate.

dominated, we've lost a little ground," he said during the 20-minute call. "But the fact that I'm bilingual, bicultural can't hurt." □



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Illinois woman accused of aiding extremists appears in court

MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A prosecutor told a federal judge Monday that a suburban Chicago mother of four accused of sending money and military equipment to militant groups in Syria poses a danger to the community and is a flight risk, so should remain in custody.

Mediha Medy Salkicevic, 34 and one of six Bosnian immigrants charged Friday, raised her fist and smiled at relatives as she appeared at the bond hearing in Chicago. Standing in orange jail clothes and with her hair covered, she also signaled for them to keep their chins up.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Cole will decide whether to allow the woman to travel on her own to St. Louis, where the case is being handled,



Family members and supporters of Mediha Medy Salkicevic leave federal court Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, in Chicago. Salkicevic is accused with five other Bosnian immigrants of sending money and equipment to extremist groups in Syria. Salkicevic appeared before Judge Jeffrey Cole, who put off a decision until Tuesday about whether to allow Salkicevic out of jail to travel to St. Louis, where the case originated, rather than remain in custody and be transported by U.S. Marshals. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

or if she will be escorted by U.S. marshals. Cole said

he would rule Tuesday. The defendants are ac-

cused of sending money and equipment to or-

ganizations the U.S. has deemed as terrorists, including the Islamic State group and Nusra Front, an al-Qaida-affiliated rebel group.

Salkicevic works as a cargo handler at O'Hare International Airport, which raises security concerns, prosecutor Angel Krull said. She didn't elaborate. Krull also told the court that Salkicevic still has relatives in Bosnia, including her mother and three sisters, increasing the chances of her fleeing abroad.

But defense attorney Andrea Gambino told Cole her client had four children living in the United States. Gambino also said there's no evidence she poses a danger.

"She is alleged to have transferred money, which is not itself a dangerous act," she said.

Cole sounded skeptical, citing the indictment as saying Salkicevic expressed pleasure at seeing pictures of sniper scopes and hoping they would be put to good use in Syria.

"The good use is killing people," Cole said.

Salkicevic faces a maximum 30-year prison sentence if convicted, the judge said. "That's a powerful... motive to flee," he added.

The indictment unsealed Friday in St. Louis alleges the six suspects — from Illinois, New York and Missouri — plotted by phone, Facebook and email; sent money via PayPal and Western Union; and shipped boxes of military gear through the U.S. Postal Service. □

Cops: Selfie shows dead teen victim shot in face

JOE MANDAK
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A 16-year-old sent a cell-phone selfie that also showed another teen he had just fatally shot in the face, sitting in a chair, investigators said in court papers charging the teen. Maxwell Morton faces a preliminary hearing Feb. 19 on charges of first-degree murder, criminal homicide and possession of a weapon by a minor following the shooting Wednesday of Ryan Mangan, who also was 16. Mangan's funeral was Monday in Jeannette, a city of roughly 9,500 residents about 25 miles (40

kilometers) east of Pittsburgh.

Investigators zeroed in on Morton after the mother of a third boy called police a day after the shooting to report that Morton had sent her son the picture with Mangan's lifeless body in the background.

Online court records don't list an attorney for Morton, and a woman who answered his home telephone Monday told The Associated Press the family has yet to hire one, before declining to comment.

According to a criminal complaint, Morton took the photo with Snapchat, a messaging app that lets

people send photos, videos and texts that disappear in a few seconds, unless the recipient saves them. If that happens, the sender is automatically notified. In this instance, the boy who received the photo saved it, and his mother turned it over to police. The photo "depicted the victim sitting in the chair with a gunshot wound to the face," which, police said, is how Mangan's mother found her son when she returned home at about 6 p.m. that day. The Snapchat photo had the name Maxwell at the top, and Morton also sent the same boy text mes-

sages saying, "Told you I cleaned up the shells" and "Ryan was not the last one," according to the criminal complaint. Westmoreland County District Attorney John Peck would not comment on the messages, including whether authorities believe Morton was referencing plans to kill others. "We don't anticipate any additional charges at this time," Peck said Monday. Peck, a county prosecutor for 31 years and the district attorney since 1994, said it was the first case he had seen "where the suspect photographed the crime scene." □



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For flying domestic airlines, open skies have their limits

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Why should business travelers care about the confounding complexities in the debate over international aviation accords known as open skies agreements? In a word, competition. In the domestic air travel market, competition has been sharply curtailed in the last decade as airlines went out of business or merged. That has led to an associated reduction in domestic routes serving smaller markets that do not feed robust revenue into an area where the major airlines are intensely focused: lucrative international flying. Yet on the expanding international routes, which transported more than half of the total 3 billion passengers around the world last year, competition is generally intensifying. That's good for consumers looking for more choices and better fares. It's not so good for domestic airlines feeling increased competition from foreign carriers that are aggressively expanding their service to and from the United States. Last year, domestic airlines flew about 82.9 million passengers on international trips from cities in the United States - but foreign carriers also accounted for a big chunk of international flying from the United States, about 71.9 million passengers, according to Transportation Department data. Claiming that some foreign carriers have unfair competitive advantages, United States-based airlines have been lobbying for new restrictions on open skies agreements, which have opened the world's skies to carriers from the United States, but also enabled many foreign

airlines - from the highflying Dubai-based Emirates to the hard-charging low-cost carrier Norwegian Air - to make extensive inroads here on their own. For example, Emirates - highly regarded by business travelers for its luxury premium cabins - introduced nonstop service between New York and Dubai in 2004, and has since added eight more American cities, most recently Chicago. On the other end of the scale, Norwegian Air, the third-largest low-fare airline in Europe, now flies to and from New York; Los Angeles and Oakland, California; and Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The airline is planning to expand with its fleet of sleek new Boeing 787 Dreamliner airliners. There are numerous other examples of foreign carriers claiming shares of the international market, over and above those that operate in formal alliances and code-share partnerships with domestic carriers. The three major domestic carriers that have extensive international networks and alliances with international partners are American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines. It isn't clear how far they might get in seeking new restrictions on foreign airlines that they say pose unfair competition in violation of open skies criteria, something Emirates and other foreign carriers deny. But as the industry trade group Airlines for America puts it, "U.S. airlines are increasingly competing with foreign carriers who are subject to more favorable tax, regulatory and infrastructure environments

Continued on Page 27



Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., flanked by Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich., left, and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-N.Y., joins House Democrats in stating their disagreement with President Barack Obama's request for fast track trade authority, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

US Financial Front:

Angry over trade moves, labor gets union-friendly pitch from Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is using a union-friendly economic pitch to soothe anger among labor leaders over his push for new trade agreements with Asia and Europe. The fight over trade is already steeling labor-allied Democrats in the House against giving Obama the kind of fast-track authority he wants to push trade deals through Congress. If Obama were to succeed, trade deals won with Republican support could depress union votes, with potential consequences for former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton if she decides to run for president in 2016. The president has personally reached out to labor leaders, briefly delaying his departure for a domestic trip in January to huddle in the White House with AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka and United Auto

Workers President Dennis Williams. The topic was Obama's upcoming State of the Union address. A week earlier, Obama had invited Mary Kay Henry, president of the Service Employees International Union, and Leo Gerard of the United Steelworkers, to fly with him to Michigan aboard the presidential plane Air Force One. Obama's relationship with labor unions has never been close and at times has been downright chilly. The fight over the new trade deals promised to be as bitter as President Bill Clinton's during debate over the North American Free Trade Agreement. But Obama has sought to court unions with an economic message straight out of the labor policy book. "We still need laws that strengthen, rather than weaken, unions and give American workers a voice,"

Obama said in his State of the Union speech to Congress in January. For labor it was a welcome sentiment from a president whom many union leaders faulted for not pushing for greater bargaining rights early in his presidency when he had Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate. The Republicans now control both chambers. Obama wants to keep the union anger to a quiet simmer by otherwise advancing an agenda that dovetails with labor's. The result is a complicated alliance that has never had a strong bond. "He has addressed our raising-wages agenda. He has been talking about middle-class economics, about jobs. He talked in his State of the Union about making unions stronger, not weaker," said Bill Samuel, the director of government affairs at the AFL-CIO. □



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Russian President Vladimir Putin in Egypt to meet leader

BRIAN ROHAN
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Cairo on Monday to meet his Egyptian counterpart, with both sides eager to strengthen ties and show both have options outside of the West to pursue their goals. Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi greeted Putin, accompanied by several high-level Russian officials and government ministers, on a red carpet as he walked off his plane, flanked by soldiers in full military dress holding rifles with their bayonets aloft. El-Sissi's office earlier said that the two leaders would sign several agreements on Tuesday, although it did not elaborate on the nature of the agreements.

Both sides have mentioned strengthening military cooperation and trade. Russian flags and posters of Putin's face hung across the capital. The state-run Al Ahram newspaper ran a weekend profile of him, with photos showing Putin shirtless and holding various weapons, headlined "A hero of our times." From the airport, the two leaders headed to the Cairo Opera House, where the symphony was to play excerpts of "Swan Lake" and the opera "Aida." The visit, the first by Putin to Egypt in a decade, is largely symbolic, analysts say. "For Egypt, the exceptionally warm reception for Putin is purposeful theatrics, meant as a message to the U.S. and the West that



Posters of Russian President Vladimir Putin hang on light poles on Qasr El Nile Bridge in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015. Putin will visit Egypt for two days. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Egypt maintains a sense of independence, has options and is not beholden," said Michael Hanna, a se-

nior fellow at the U.S.-based Century Foundation. The Egyptian economy is still struggling after several years of instability that began with its 2011 revolt, and the government is courting investors. The United States,

which provides the country up to \$1.3 billion in annual military aid, partially suspended that funding following el-Sissi's overthrow of an Islamist president in 2013 and his subsequent crackdown on dissent. □



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Syria claims it doesn't need Jordan in Islamic State fight

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's foreign minister on Monday criticized neighboring Jordan, which recently stepped up airstrikes against Islamic State group targets in Syria, and said his country does not need outside help in battling militants. Walid al-Moallem also told reporters that Damascus will not accept Jordanian or other foreign ground troops crossing into Syria to fight. There has been no mention of any international troops offering to go into Syria to fight the Islamic State group. Jordan has, however, vowed to retaliate harshly for the slaying

of one of its pilots, who was burned alive by the Islamic State group militants last week. "We will not allow anyone to violate our national sovereignty and we do not need any ground troops to fight Daesh," al-Moallem said, using the Arabic acronym for the extremist group. "The Syrian Arab government is fully capable of fighting Daesh valiantly and we don't need any other troops." Jordan is a member of a U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Syria. The Syrian government describes the airstrike campaign as illegitimate because it has not been coordinated with the Syrian government. □



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Greece puts brave face on negotiations with creditors

DEREK GATOPOULOS
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greece put a brave face on its fraught negotiations with European bailout creditors, with the new prime minister voicing confidence Monday that a compromise can be reached at high-stakes meetings in coming days.

Alexis Tsipras' comments came as Greek stocks and bonds took a drubbing after the radical left-led government renewed a pledge to seek bailout debt forgiveness and dubbed the country's rescue package — with its conditions of strict austerity — a "toxic fantasy."

"I don't believe there is a serious reason for there not to be an agreement ... with our partners — just political reasons," Tsipras said after

a meeting in Vienna with Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann. "If we are brought to an impasse due to such political reasons, then I think that would be a decision to torpedo our common European future," Tsipras added. "And I think nobody harbors such intentions."

Tsipras' government won Jan. 25 elections promising relief for Greeks who have suffered through six years of recession and a dramatic drop in living standards. It's under intense pressure to work out a deal with bailout creditors in coming weeks or days, which would unlock funds and secure cheap financing for Greek banks — five of which suffered a one-notch downgrade Monday by Moody's ratings agency. In the radical left Syriza party's first week in power,



Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis speaks during a Parliament session in Athens, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015. Varoufakis dismissed the 240 billion euro (\$270 billion) bailout packages crafted by Greece's lenders as a "toxic fantasy" that had always been doomed to fail.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

Greece has suffered a ratings downgrade and a decision by the European Central Bank not to accept its bonds as collateral for credit to Greek lenders. □

Shots fired near Marseille on day of French Prime Minister's visit

MAÏA de la BAUME

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PARIS - Several men fired shots in the air Monday in a poor suburb of Marseille while the French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, was in the city to defend the government's local security plan, police officials said. No one was wounded.

The gunmen are believed to be members of a gang who may have fired their weapons "to take revenge" on a rival group, said David-Olivier Reverdy, the spokesman for a police union in Marseille.

"They didn't target police officials," he said, despite earlier reports that masked men had fired on officers. The episode occurred in La Castellane, a housing project that has been blighted by drug crime and gang violence.

On Monday morning, several witnesses heard gunshots and called the police. The

appearance of police officers prompted the gunmen to fire into the air again, Reverdy said.

The violence set off alarms in Marseille almost a month after three gunmen killed 17 people in one of France's deadliest terrorist attacks.

Valls was in Marseille to detail the government's security strategy for the city, which has experienced waves of gang crime. He was also expected to visit a former World War II prison and transit compound from which Jews were deported to concentration camps, and to meet with police officials.

Separately, Moussa Coulibaly, the man who attacked soldiers in the southern French city of Nice last week, was formally charged on Saturday with "attempted assassination" in relation to a "terrorist enterprise." He has been detained indefinitely. □

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China executes billionaire who ran 'mafia-style' gang

MICHAEL FORSYTHE

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HONG KONG - A Chinese billionaire who was building a mining empire in Australia was executed Monday after a court last year sentenced him to die for running a "mafia-style" gang that engaged in murder and extortion.

Liu Han, 49, his brother Liu Wei, and three associates were executed Monday, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing the Xianning Intermediate People's Court in the central Chinese province of Hubei. The men had been sentenced in May for running a criminal syndicate that

killed at least eight people, ran extortion schemes, trafficked weapons and operated gambling dens. Their crimes were "deeply evil and particularly cruel," Xinhua cited the court as saying. China leads the world in executions, but Liu Han's case was particularly noteworthy because of his

great wealth - with one official report pinning his family's assets at more than \$6 billion - his international business network that invested in Australian mines, as well as his reported connections to a disgraced former Chinese police czar who is awaiting trial. Liu Han's arrest in March

2013 came as he was in talks to buy the Australian mining company Sundance Resources. The deal collapsed the following month. In 2009, his flagship company, Sichuan Hanlong Group, bought a controlling stake in another Australian mining company, Moly Mines. □

Police seek man who raped Japanese student in India

P. BHANDARI

Associated Press

JAIPUR, India (AP) — Police were searching Monday for a man who raped a Japanese student sightseeing in northern India, while elsewhere they announced the arrest of eight men suspected of brutally raping and killing a Nepalese woman, as India authorities continue to struggle to address chronic sexual violence.

The 20-year-old student attacked Sunday is the second Japanese woman raped in India in recent months. The man had met her in Jaipur and offered to act as her tour guide, according to police inspector general D.C. Jain.

The man later took the woman on his motorcycle to a farming village outside the city in Rajasthan state, where he raped her

on the side of the road before leaving her, Jain said. Villagers who heard the woman crying helped her

a man in his 20s and were certain "the person who committed the rape is from Jaipur," Jain said, though



Indian youth hold candles during a protest against sexual violence in New Delhi, India, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015. Police were searching Monday for a man who raped a Japanese student sightseeing in northern India, while elsewhere they announced the arrest of eight men suspected of brutally raping and killing a Nepalese woman, as India authorities continue to struggle to address chronic sexual violence. (AP Photo/ Tsering Topgyal)

contact police. A medical examination confirmed the woman had been raped. Police were searching for

police have yet to identify a particular suspect.

A series of recent attacks has renewed public fury

and horror over India's inability to halt chronic violence against women, despite strengthening laws against sex crimes in 2013. In December, a 22-year-old research scholar from Japan was held captive and gang raped for nearly three weeks in a village near a Buddhist pilgrimage center in Bihar state. Police have arrested several suspects in that case, which also involved a tourist guide who had offered to help the woman with sightseeing. She escaped from captivity on Dec. 26 and fled to the eastern city of Kolkata.

In another case, police said Monday that they had arrested eight people suspected in the rape and murder of a Nepalese woman in the northwest Indian state of Haryana.

The 28-year-old woman

had been staying with her sister when she went missing Feb. 1. Her mutilated body was discovered three days later, and an autopsy revealed that several organs were missing and that objects including stones, blades and a stick had been inserted into her body, police said.

The woman's sister joined hundreds of protesters in blocking a major road outside New Delhi over the weekend to criticize police for moving too slowly in the case.

She told reporters she wanted the culprits to be hanged. "I get chills when I think of what happened to my sister, I want justice for my sister," she said. She has not been named, in accordance with Indian laws that forbid the identification of living or dead rape victims like her sister. □

Thai-US military exercise launched amid coup tension

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand and the United States on Monday launched their annual Cobra Gold military exercise, a major multilateral training event scaled down this year amid mutual recriminations over last year's Thai military coup. In a speech marking the opening of the exercise, W. Patrick Murphy, the top U.S. diplomat in Thailand, said that bilateral relations since the May 22 coup had

been challenging and reiterated that Washington hopes for a quick return to democracy. Thailand's military-led government has said it expects to hold elections early next year. U.S. officials previously announced that this year's exercise in eastern Thailand would be scaled down, cancelling a large-scale amphibious landing and emphasizing humanitarian operations training.

More than 13,000 military personnel from seven nations are participating, and other nations are observing.

Senior U.S. State Department official Daniel Russel drew criticism from coup supporters last month when he indicated Washington's displeasure over what it considers undemocratic rule by the generals. A few days afterward, China's defense minister

made a high-profile visit to Bangkok in which he discussed strengthening military ties with Thailand. China is the main rival to the U.S. for influence in Southeast Asia.

Russel "made clear our unwavering friendship and support for the Thai people, as well as our hopes for the country's return to democracy as soon as possible so we can restore our bilateral relationship to

its full potential," Murphy said. "Still, we can't deny that this period is a challenging one for us all, and has necessitated a modified Cobra Gold exercise this year as Thailand manages its return to elected, civilian-led government." He added though that the multinational military training exercise transcends any bilateral relationship and strengthens cooperation in the region. □

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Yemen talks resume but quickly stall on Houthi demands

ROD NORDLAND

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SANAA, Yemen - Feuding political parties resumed United Nations-mediated talks with the Houthi militants controlling Yemen's capital on Monday, but two parties withdrew within hours complaining of threats from the Houthis. The talks are regarded as crucial to reverse deepening political anarchy in Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished country and an incubator of al-Qaida militants who are a frequent target of American drone strikes. U.N. officials had coaxed the parties back to negotiations three days after the Houthis' unilateral declaration of a plan to form a new government and choose a president. But soon after the first session began on Monday, Abdullah al-Noman, the secretary general of the Nasserist Organization, a small party, accused one of the top Houthi negotiators, Mehdi al-Meshaat, of

threatening to use force to compel the other parties to accept the Houthis' plan. Citing those threats, the larger Islah party later said that it was boycotting the talks as well, according to a statement on its website. The Islah statement also objected to the Houthis' insistence on sticking to their unilateral plan to form a government. The Islah party is an Islamist Sunni grouping that has bitterly opposed the Houthis, who are dominated by Zaydis, adherents of a sect that is an offshoot of Shiite Islam. Party representatives engaged in a heated argument with al-Meshaat, who was quoted by a participant as replying, "If you don't behave, we will take appropriate measures against you," which they interpreted as a threat of force. Houthi militiamen are in de facto control of the central government, its military, and much of central and northern Yemen. □



Yahya al-Houthi, center, brother of Houthi leader, Abdel-Malek al-Houthi attends a meeting at parliament in Sanaa, Yemen, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015. Yemen's Shiite rebels are meeting with political rivals for the first time since cementing their power grab last week by dissolving parliament and making their top security body the de facto government.

(AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

Afghan officials: Drone strikes kill top Islamic State recruiter

AMIR SHAH

LOLITA BALDOR

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The top recruiter for the Islamic State group's affiliate in Afghanistan was killed by a drone strike Monday, local officials said, marking the first such attack on the extremist group in a volatile country where it has a small but growing following. U.S. officials said a total of eight people were killed in the drone strike, but could not confirm the Islamic State recruiter's death. The deputy governor of the southern Helmand province identified the recruit-

er as Abdul Rauf, saying he and others were killed when a drone-fired missile struck their car. The attack would appear to deal a blow to the Islamic State group's efforts to develop a local affiliate to challenge the long-dominant Taliban. Last month, Afghan tribal leaders and Western intelligence analysts told The Associated Press that Abdul Rauf was the top Islamic State recruiter in Helmand. Rauf had been held in the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba for his involvement with the Taliban. □

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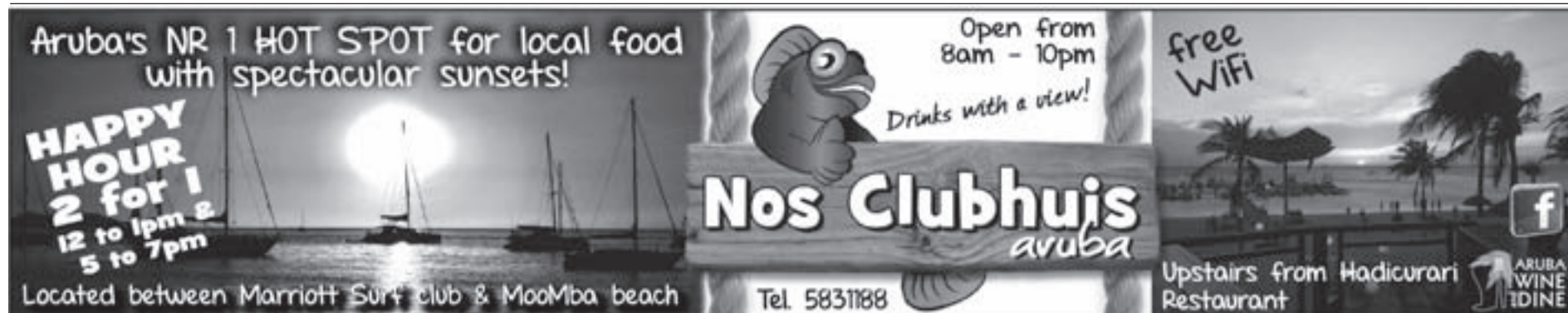
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Netflix brings streaming video service to Cuba

**M. LIEDTKE,
M. WEISSENSTEIN**
Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Netflix began selling its Internet video service in Cuba Monday in what appears to be a largely symbolic move driven by the recent loosening of U.S. restrictions on doing business with the communist-run island.

The expansion probably will generate more publicity for Netflix Inc. than new subscribers because only a small fraction of people living in or visiting Cuba have the high-speed Internet access needed to stream movies and TV shows.

The audience with fast enough Internet service to get Netflix consists primarily of international executives, foreign media workers and high-ranking government officials. Many more Cubans have access to relatively fast internet connections if they work for state businesses authorized to have the service, but their online activities are monitored. Streaming videos at work is among the activities that could trigger disciplinary action.

Most Cuban incomes are meager, too, making Netflix's \$8-per-month service an unaffordable luxury for most of the island's 11 million residents. A ban on making U.S. payments also remains in effect, requiring anyone in Cuba who wants to subscribe to Netflix to set up an international payment method.

Credit card use by Cubans is virtually unknown, though both MasterCard and American Express recently announced plans to begin processing payments by their U.S. card holders while visiting the island.

Despite those obstacles, Netflix evidently wants to establish a toehold on Cuba now with the

Latin America countries in 2011.

Netflix now has more than 5 million subscribers in Latin America, accounting for nearly 10 percent of its 57 million customers worldwide. About 39 million of those subscribers are in the U.S., but Netflix is now experiencing its fastest growth internationally.

particularly promising market for Netflix. The company's stock dipped 85 cents to \$443.51 in afternoon trading Monday.

Only about 27 percent of Cuba's population currently has access to the Internet, according to Internet Live Stats, which uses information from the International Telecommunica-



This photo shows the Netflix headquarters in Los Gatos, Calif. Netflix on Monday, Feb. 9, 2015 announced it is launching its movie and TV show streaming service in Cuba as Internet access in the country improves and credit and debit cards become more widely available.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

hope that Internet service will improve, household incomes will rise and diplomatic relations with the U.S. will continue to thaw. Moving into Cuba isn't likely to cost Netflix a significant amount, given that the Los Gatos, California, company already has been programming for Spanish-speaking audiences since expanding into dozens of

Things have been going so well internationally that Netflix CEO Reed Hastings plans to complete the company's expansion outside the U.S. by the end of next year. By then, Netflix expects to be streaming in 200 countries, including China, if the company can get the necessary approvals. Investors apparently don't view Cuba as a par-

tion Union, the United Nations and the World Bank to estimate the world's Internet users. Another estimate by the group Freedom House puts Cuba's Internet availability at just 5 percent of the population. Much of Cuba's Web surfing occurs in hotels or government internet centers with connections too slow to stream videos. □

CARIBBEAN News Briefs

Staff at Guyana's biggest university striking over pay

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)

— Professors and support staff at the main campus of Guyana's biggest university have launched a strike to press for higher pay and better working conditions. The strike by hundreds of union employees at the University of Guyana was launched Monday after negotiations with administrators collapsed. Staffers at the government-run university are demanding a 60 percent increase in pay. Staff association spokeswoman Melissa Ifill says the administration is offering a 5 percent salary boost. Guyana's professors and support staff are the lowest paid among colleagues in the Caribbean Community. □

Ex- PM testifies before panel on raid in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding is testifying before a fact-finding commission examining a 2010 raid by security forces that killed some 76 civilians. The West Kingston raid by soldiers and police was intended to capture a gang kingpin who ran a criminal fiefdom that seemed untouchable until Jamaica reluctantly agreed to act on a U.S. extradition warrant. Golding's administration resisted the U.S. request for nine months, arguing Christopher Coke's indictment on drug and gun trafficking charges relied on illegal evidence. At the time, Golding represented the area in Parliament. The U.S. described Coke as one of the world's most dangerous drug barons. □

Condoms scarce in teen pregnancy-plagued Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Condoms are the latest item to become scarce — and costly — in Venezuela.

Once easy to find, condoms disappeared from pharmacy shelves as the

year started, along with many food and cleaning products.

Public health workers worry the shortage could worsen Venezuela's already high rates of HIV and teen pregnancy.

Venezuela has the second-highest teen pregnancy rate in South America, after Guyana, according to World Bank statistics. Merchants have begun selling condoms on the black market, using a web-

site that is the Venezuelan equivalent of Craigslist. On Monday, a 24-pack of Durex condoms was going for \$317 at Venezuela's official exchange rate, or \$10 at the more widely used black market rate. □



Carnival makes a splash at the Pata Pata Pool Bar!



EAGLE BEACH - Last year's Carnival Queen Sandra Barrero gave up her crown to the new La Cabana Carnival Queen at a fun happening which unfolded on the pool deck recently.

Many resort associates came along to cheer and dance sharing the Carnival spirit with their guests and creating a joyous and raucous musical event. La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino hosts regular fun events for its associates courtesy of an extraordinary social committee with Helene, Jeanette, Nilda, Fran, Rita, Avilia, Giovanni and Damien putting their heads together to entertain their coworkers, and their guests, create team spirit and a strong sense of community. □

February 12, 2015, Oranjestad – On February 13th, Diamonds International will be joining forces with MagicFM 96.5 to celebrate Valentine's Day full of love. From 3:30pm to 6:30pm two lovely cupids will be visiting Diamonds International not only to spread lots of love, but also to give everyone Valentine's gift advice. During this Valentines season, we will be extending our EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT so everyone can share the love! Also the winner of our Facebook raffle will be an-

nounced during MagicFM live broadcast in our store. If you haven't, hurry up and

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ture with the Valentine's raffle prize to participate to win this stunning jewelry piece.

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A success story

Wim Arns, a middle-aged Dutch man, got severely burned on his hands and face when cigar ashes drifted down into a bucket of paraffin oil he was holding, causing a spontaneous explosion. Wim: "After being treated in the Burn Centre in Rotterdam, the doctors referred me to a skin therapist in my hometown to continue the aftercare of the burn scars. My skin felt really tight and itchy, and I wanted a cream to help with this. That's when the therapist recommended *Alhydran*. Already within an hour of applying the cream, I felt my skin had more space to breathe and the itching stopped. My face has healed completely, the skin has total flexibility again, and the same goes for my hands. Therapy certainly contributed to this, but I attribute the flexibility of the skin and eradication of the itching to the use of *Alhydran*."

Alhydran through the eyes of a professional

Rina Rijkenberg is a certified skin therapist in Oosterbeek, the Netherlands. As a specialist, she has different skin products to choose from, but *Alhydran* is her #1 solution. Rina: "A lot of complaints are that the skin feels dry, itchy, red, sensitive, and painful, which are symptoms frequently associated with burn victims, lymph edema patients, and people who have undergone radiation therapy or have general scar tissue, acne, or excessive hair. All this can be caused by a deregulation in the moisture levels of the skin. The secret to *Alhydran* is that it regulates the moisture levels of the skin continuously in an unprecedented way. A very high dosage of pure Aloe Vera gel delivers the hydration, and pure Vitamin C, Vitamin E, and Jojoba oil prolong the activity. Patients can actually see and feel their skin healing."

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- Aruba Aloe Arawak (Palm beach)
- Aruba Aloe Cruise Terminal (APA Cruise Terminal)

- Aruba Aloe Divi Links (Divi Aruba Hotel)
- Aruba Aloe Tamarijn (Tamarijn Aruba Hotel)
- Aruba Aloe Occidental (Occidental Hotel)
- Aruba Aloe Marriott Ocean Club
- Aruba Aloe Riu Palace Antillas
- Aruba Aloe Main Street
- Aruba Aloe at The Village (In front of Radisson Resort)



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ing provided by the honorees are that they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and friendly Aruban hospitality. □

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Former English national soccer team captain David Beckham speaks during a press conference to mark his 10 years as a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF and to launch '7' a new fund for children in danger across the globe in London, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015.

Associated Press

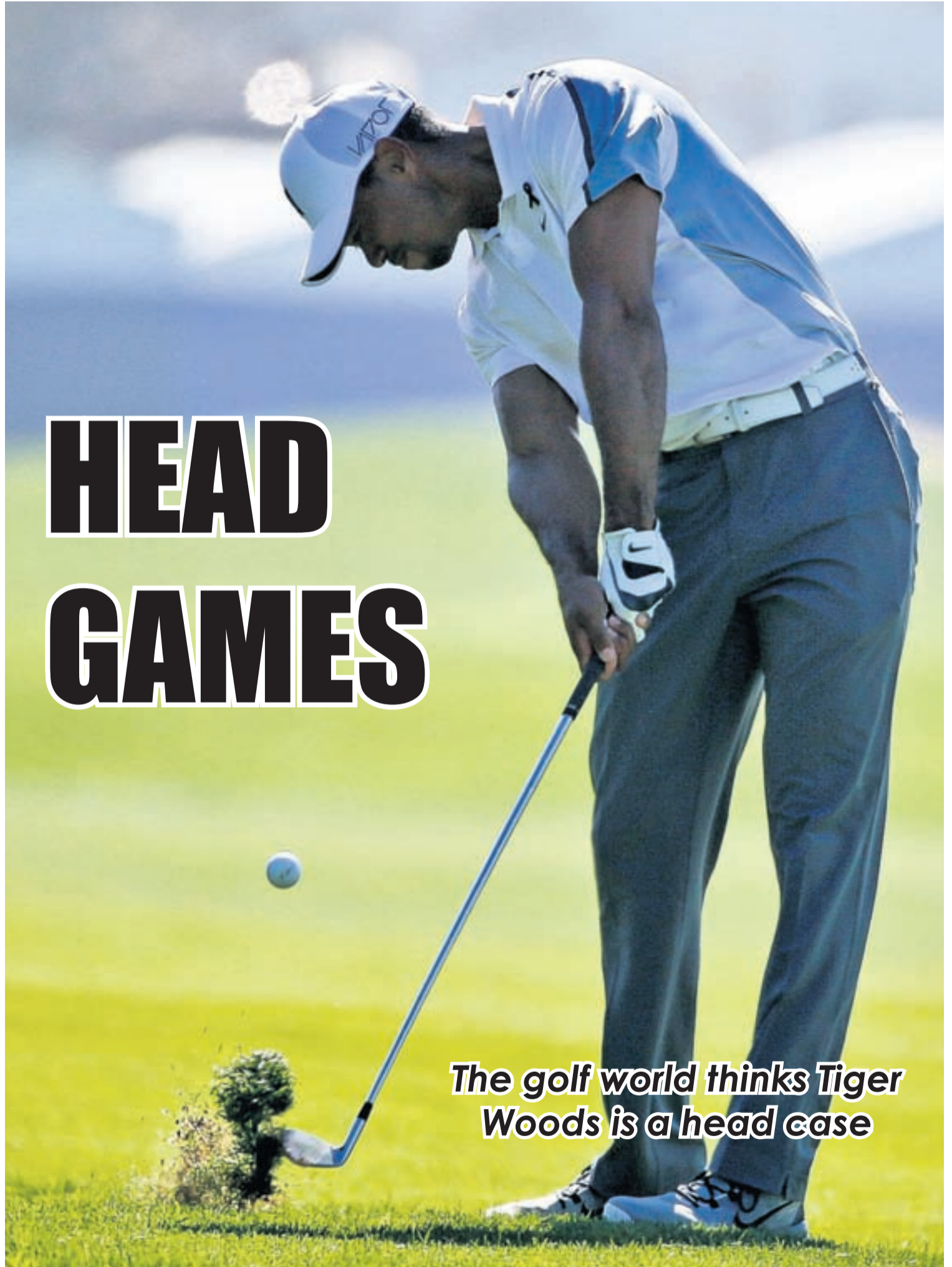
Former soccer star David Beckham launches UNICEF children's fund

LONDON (AP) — David Beckham has marked his 10th year as a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF by setting up a new personal fund, saying he wants to "raise millions" to help protect the world's most vulnerable children.

Named after Beckham's jersey number during his career with Manchester United and England, "7: The David Beckham UNICEF Fund" was launched in London on Monday and is encouraging world leaders to create lasting positive change for children.

Beckham says "the need to help children has never been greater and since retiring I have more time and I want to do so much more."

Beckham, one of the most iconic figures in sports, retired in 2013 after a playing career with United, Real Madrid, the Los Angeles Galaxy, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain. □



Tiger Woods hits his approach shot to the 10th hole (his first) on the north course at Torrey Pines during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, in San Diego.



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Maze captures Alpine combined title at Beaver Creek worlds

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. (AP)

— Tina Maze pulled off an impressive feat on the soft snow — a round-house flip in ski boots. Her racing wasn't too bad, either.

Maze captured gold in the Alpine combined Monday, earning her third medal of the Beaver Creek world championships on a warm afternoon when Lindsey Vonn failed to finish the slalom.

Leading after the downhill portion, the Slovenian standout used a clean slalom run to finish in a combined time of 2 minutes, 33.37 seconds. Nicole Hosp of Austria was second, 0.22 seconds behind, and fellow Austrian Michaela Kirchgasser earned third.

"If I didn't win today I wouldn't have felt good," Maze said. "It was a lot of pressure today. It's not easy to race like that. I was really nervous before the slalom."

"This was a hard win."

And a difficult day for Vonn, who struggled in the downhill portion, with the icy surface bothering her surgically repaired right knee. Later, in the slalom, she straddled a gate just before the first interval, ending her day.

Vonn was in tears after the race — overwhelmed by the pressure of racing in front of a hometown crowd. She will race in one last event, the giant slalom, on Thursday.

"I'm just really disappointed," said Vonn, whose lone medal at worlds so far is a bronze in the super-G. "I re-



Slovenia's Tina Maze races down the course during the women's alpine slalom competition at the alpine skiing world championships, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, in Beaver Creek, Colo.

Associated Press

ally tried as hard as I could. I came up short. That's disappointing for myself, my family and my fans. I didn't figure out this hill at all."

Maze certainly is dialed in at Beaver Creek. She adds this gold to the silver she won in the super-G and gold in the downhill last week. She's trying to match Norwegian great Lasse Kjus, who earned medals in all five disciplines at the 1999 worlds in Beaver Creek.

"She's a fantastic skier," said Kjus, who flew in from Norway to watch the competition. "She can do it."

But fatigue is starting to play a factor. Maze said

she's exhausted from all the races and training sessions. She has a few rest days before the giant slalom and slalom on Saturday.

Maze playfully hinted she might skip out on resting and participate in the Nations Team event Tuesday, the only team-style competition at worlds. It's not held in Beaver Creek — the slope she knows so well — but in nearby Vail and could mean quite a bit of extra skiing.

"I'm joking," said Maze, who now has nine world medals. "I will take a break for sure."

The 31-year-old Maze may

be tired, but she still had plenty of energy to celebrate. After seeing her winning time on the scoreboard, she held her left ski pole in the air. Then, she lifted her right one and urged the crowd to stand up in the bleachers. She then clicked out of her skis and did a cartwheel — her signature move after wins.

"Winning is always amazing," said Maze, who sang along with her national anthem as she wiped away tears.

By her standards, Maze had what she called a solid downhill, but certainly not one of her best. That made

her a little anxious for the slalom, especially running last and the sun baking the snow.

With the snow deteriorating, Maze took a conservative approach through the groove-filled course. Then, near the bottom, she found another gear.

"You had to go for it and I did my best," she said.

Hosp and Kirchgasser led a strong showing by the Austrians. The country had four skiers in the top 10, including Anna Fenninger, who finished fourth. Fenninger won the super-G at worlds last week and was second in the downhill. □

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NBA Capsules

Durant leads Thunder to blowout win over Clippers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 29 points to lead the Thunder to a 131-108 win Sunday over the Los Angeles Clippers, who were without All-Star Blake Griffin.

The Clippers announced before the game that Griffin will be out indefinitely because of a staph infection in his right elbow. Without him, the Clippers fell to their most lopsided loss of the season.

Russell Westbrook had 19 points, 11 rebounds and five assists, and rookie Mitch McGary had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder, who shot 52 percent and moved back above the .500 mark.

Jamal Crawford scored 21 points and Chris Paul had 18 points and 13 assists for the Clippers.

GRIZZLIES 94, HAWKS 88
MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Mike Conley had 21 points and six assists, and Marc Gasol finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds as Memphis beat Atlanta.

The game was tied at 86 after Mike Scott's 3-pointer

with 3:24 left before Memphis scored the next eight points to put away the game.

Zach Randolph had 11 points and 15 rebounds, while Kosta Koufos finished with 10 points and seven rebounds as Memphis out-rebounded the Hawks 55-37.

One of those rebounds provided the tiebreaking basket, with Tony Allen tipping in Randolph's miss to make it 88-86 with 2:28 remaining. Jeff Teague led the Hawks with 22 points, shooting 9 of 13, while Kent Bazemore added 14 points. Dennis Schroder and Scott finished with 11 apiece off the Atlanta bench and DeMarre Carroll scored 10.

CAVALIERS 120, LAKERS 105
CLEVELAND (AP) — Kevin Love scored a season-high 32 points and LeBron James flirted with a triple-double as Cleveland quickly got back to winning.

The Cavs had their 12-game winning streak snapped Friday, a run that started when they beat the Lakers on Jan. 15. This time,

Love made five 3-pointers in the second quarter and two more in the third as Cleveland opened a 26-point lead.

James scored 22 with 10 rebounds and eight assists in three quarters. All-Star guard Kyrie Irving added 28 points and 10 assists. Rookie Jordan Clarkson scored a career-high 20 for the Lakers, who matched a franchise worst with their 10th straight road loss. Los Angeles hasn't won away from Staples Center since Dec. 30 at Denver. The Lakers also lost 10 in a row on the road in 1957-58 and 1963-64.

RAPTORS 87, SPURS 82
TORONTO (AP) — James Johnson scored a season-high 20 points in his return to the starting lineup and DeMar DeRozan had 18 as Toronto denied Spurs coach Gregg Popovich his 1,000th career victory.

Amir Johnson added 15 points, Kyle Lowry 12 and Jonas Valanciunas had a season-high 16 rebounds as Toronto improved to 8-2 at home against Western



Oklahoma City Thunder center Steven Adams (12) shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Spencer Hawes defends in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015. Oklahoma City won 131-108.

Associated Press

Conference opponents. The Raptors snapped a seven-game losing streak against the Spurs and won for the first time in five home meetings.

Tim Duncan and Marco Belinelli each scored 12 points, Kawhi Leonard had 11 and Tony Parker 10 as the Spurs shot 31 for 93 (.333), their worst performance of the season. San Antonio's previous low was .344 at Houston on Nov. 6 in a 98-81 defeat.

TRAIL BLAZERS 109, ROCKETS 98

HOUSTON (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and Damian Lillard added 23 to help Portland fight off a late charge from Houston.

James Harden tied a season high with 45 points for the Rockets, who are playing without star center Dwight Howard, out indefinitely with knee swelling.

The Trail Blazers led by 17 in

the second half, but a big third quarter helped Houston to a slim lead early in the fourth quarter. Portland scored seven straight points to break a tie and take a 92-85 lead midway through the period, with five points from Meyers Leonard in that stretch.

Houston cut the lead to four points twice in the last 2 1/2 minutes, but Portland answered both times.

BULLS 98, MAGIC 97
ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Pau Gasol dunked in the rebound of Derrick Rose's missed layup with 9.4 seconds left as Chicago rallied to beat Orlando.

Jimmy Butler led the Bulls with 27 points, and Gasol finished with 25 points and 15 rebounds. Joakim Noah added 18 points and nine rebounds. Chicago led by as many as 16 points, before finding itself in a six-point hole with just over 2 minutes to play. □

Clippers' Paul fined \$25,000 for criticizing female official

NEW YORK (AP) — Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul has been fined \$25,000 for criticizing a female referee after an NBA loss to Cleveland.

Paul was given a technical by rookie ref Lauren Holtkamp on Thursday in the third quarter of a 105-94 loss to the Cavaliers, a game that featured five technicals against the Clippers.

After the game, Paul called the technical on an in-

bound play "ridiculous," and said "this might not be for her," regarding one of the NBA's two female officials.

Paul said on Friday he was upset only with the call made by Holtkamp. Paul appeared to say something to her as he waited for an inbound pass after a Cavaliers' free throw.

The penalty is in line with others the NBA has levied for criticism of officials. □



In this Jan. 9, 2015, file photo, referee Lauren Holtkamp makes a call during an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Orlando Magic in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Biggest obstacle facing Woods might be between the ears

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The BBC called on Thanksgiving weekend in 2009 looking for insight on the shocking, sordid details about the private life of Tiger Woods and how this would affect his pursuit of golf's most meaningful record.

The line of questions made one thing clear. They didn't need a golf writer, they needed a psychologist.

Five years later, has anything changed?

Ignore for a moment the bunker shot that Woods blasted into the bleachers on the 16th hole during the pro-am at the Phoenix Open. Or the 82 he posted in the second round at the TPC Scottsdale, the worst score of his career. The record will show he has more WDs than top 10s in the last 18 months.

But this might be the most sobering thought.

Is it possible that perhaps his greatest strength — his mind — is now his weakness?

The look on the practice range is one of uncertainty. On the golf course, it is one of resignation. Woods has never appeared more fragile. And he has never been the subject of so much sympathy from peers he used to beat so badly that Charles Howell III once said only half-jokingly that he "ruined a lot of guys' lives."

There was some truth to a throwaway line from Woods at his Hero World Challenge in December that "Father Time is unde-



Tiger Woods looks back while loading his car after withdrawing in the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, in San Diego.

feated." He is 39 with five surgeries and one public embarrassment behind him. Adding to accelerating years is that he has been in pursuit of greatness from the time he crawled out of a high chair.

Accepting his rapidly advancing age is another story.

A decade ago in the parking lot at Doral, when Woods finally adapted to a swing change under Hank Haney and was on his way to two majors that year, he said he would walk away from the game sooner than anyone imagined, that he would quit when his best was no longer good enough to win.

"I've won tournaments out here when I wasn't playing my best," Woods said that day. "If I play my best and

don't win, there's no reason to be out here. I don't lie. When I play well, I tell you guys. When I haven't played well, I'll tell you."

At this stage in his career, his best isn't good enough to beat Rory McIlroy and maybe a few others.

Woods has never been forthcoming with the press or the public. The question is how honest he is with himself. For now he can fall back on injuries as the cause of his poor play, although the message gets muddled based on his recent comments about his back.

"It feels great. It feels fantastic," he said in December.

"That's not an issue anymore," he said last week in Phoenix.

And then he pulled out af-

ter 11 holes at Torrey Pines for what he described as tightness in his lower back. If only he had described it that way. Woods doesn't like to be perceived as a golfer. He wants to be perceived as an athlete, and it shows in his speech.

He warmed up fine on Thursday morning. The fog rolled in, the temperature dropped and his back never loosened up again after standing around. That happens. Instead, he said that "everything started deactivating again" and it was frustrating that he couldn't stay "activated." Thankfully, he cleared that up by mentioning it was his "glutes" that didn't activate. For the next two days, "glute activation" became a buzz word on the putting green and practice range.

Woods became the butt of jokes.

No one wants to see this. Most disturbing is how easily it has become to withdraw. In his brief interview among a circus atmosphere in the parking lot, no one asked if Woods risked further injury by completing the last six holes (and presumably two putts). Could he not have gutted out the first round and tried to activate his glutes Friday morning? Notah Begay said over the weekend on Golf Channel that a text from Woods indicated it was not a "major concern."

One major concern is motivation and, yes, desire.

That would be unlike the Woods of yesteryear — no one would ever dare question his desire — but it's reality. This is his 20th year on tour. He's gone to the top of the mountain four times. This would be the toughest climb of them all. He is a single father of two whose schedule is determined by the weeks when he gets the kids. He has been hurt on the golf course and humbled off it.

And he has chipping problems so severe that the dirtiest four-letter word in golf has been evoked — yips. The Masters starts in 59 days. Woods is supposed to play the Honda Classic in two weeks, and there are questions whether he should even show up. Woods doesn't need competition. He needs a clear head and a strong mind. Right now, the only thing clear about Woods is that he faces a murky future. □

Associated Press

Billy Casper, prolific PGA Tour winner, dies at 83

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Billy Casper, one of the most prolific winners on the PGA Tour who was overshadowed at the height of his career by the "Big Three," died of a heart attack Saturday at his home in Utah. He was 83. Bob Casper said his father died quickly and peacefully with wife Shirley at his bedside. They had been married 62 years.

Casper passed out in the clubhouse at the Masters last year, had work on his heart and recovered from a bout of pneumonia over Thanksgiving that kept him hospitalized for a month. His son said Casper was going to cardio rehab for the last four months and was doing well until he started to feel badly in the last week.

In any other era, Casper might have commanded

more attention than he did.

"I think it is fair to say that Billy was probably underrated by those who didn't play against him," Jack Nicklaus said Saturday night. "Those who did compete against him knew how special he was."

Casper won 51 times on the PGA Tour, putting him at No. 7 on the career list behind only Sam Snead, Tiger Woods, Nicklaus,

Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer and Byron Nelson. His three major championships include the 1966 U.S. Open, one of golf's most remarkable comebacks. He rallied from a seven-shot deficit on the back nine at Olympic Club to tie Palmer, and beat him in an 18-hole playoff.

Casper also won the 1959 U.S. Open at Winged Foot and the 1970 Masters. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1978.

He was overshadowed by the "Big Three" — Palmer, Nicklaus and Gary Player, whose rivalry sparked a revival in golf in that era. From 1962 through 1970, Casper and Nicklaus won 33 times on the PGA Tour, while Palmer won 30 times. According to Golf Digest, Casper's winning rate of 9.2 percent trails only Nicklaus (12 percent) and Woods (26 percent) of all golfers who started after 1950. □

Jason Day wins at Torrey Pines in a playoff



Jason Day, from Australia, flips a short pitch onto the 18th green at Torrey Pines where he saved his par to earn a spot in a four man playoff on the south course at Torrey Pines during the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015, in San Diego.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Jason Day was playing to win and figured he lost.

His chip from gnarly rough behind the 18th green at Torrey Pines came out hot, rolled out fast and tumbled off the front of the green toward the water. After a week of visualizing his hands on the trophy, his thoughts quickly changed to a more dire scenario.

"OK, where do I need to drop?" he said.

The cheers told him otherwise. The ball stopped at the yellow hazard line a few feet from the water. Day saved par from there, got into a four-man playoff and won the Farmers Insurance Open on Sunday with a par on the second extra hole.

"When you win golf tournaments, you have to have a little bit of luck," Day said. "And that was my luck."

There was plenty of skill to go with it.

Day made two big birdies and a par save from a plugged lie in the bunker during a tough stretch on the back nine and closed with a 2-under 70. He played a smart shot on the par-5 18th in the playoff and made birdie with a superb pitch. And he outlasted J.B. Holmes on the

par-3 16th with a 5-iron to 15 feet after Holmes drilled his 6-iron over the green and made bogey.

Harris English, who birdied the 18th hole for a 72, and defending champion Scott Stallings (69) also were in the playoff. They were eliminated on the first extra hole.

It was a big win for Day, who was more determined than ever not to let injuries get in the way of his lifelong goal of No. 1 in the world. For now, he'll have to settle for No. 1 in Australia. The third PGA Tour victory of his career moved him to No. 4, just ahead of Adam Scott, still miles behind Rory McIlroy. But it's a start, and equally important to winning is staying in good health.

After winning the Match Play Championship a year ago to rise to No. 4 in the world, he played only the Masters in the next three months because of a thumb injury.

"It's an amazing feeling," Day said. "I've been working so hard for this. I was visualizing myself holding the trophy, just like I did at the Match Play. I'm really proud of myself to hang in there and grind it out."

Day said he no longer wants to be satisfied finishing second, and it showed.

Tied for the lead, he took a chance in regulation by going for the 18th green in two. He pulled a 3-wood to clear the water, but over the green in U.S. Open-type rough is no bargain, and it nearly cost him. Holmes played it safe with no regrets.

In the final group and tied for the lead, he had 235 yards to the pin and chose to lay up with an 8-iron. He was surprised when his wedge didn't spin back toward the bowl at the front of the green, and his 20-foot birdie putt for the win grazed the cup. He closed with a 72.

A little shorter or longer in the fairway and he said he would have gone for it. But the ball was on a slightly downhill lie.

"It was a lie that my tendency is to hit it a little bit further and hit a draw, and long and left is dead," Holmes said. "If you hit something over the green there, it's not really an easy up-and-down. It's not really the best access to the pin. The best play is to lay up and hit a wedge. I had the same thing again, I would lay up."

English and Stallings were eliminated on the first extra hole. Stallings had to lay up from the left rough, and his 15-foot birdie putt turned

away. English drove well to the right, but his short iron back to the fairway was too strong and settled on the border of the first cut and 4-inch grass. He couldn't get any spin on the ball, and was left with a 60-foot birdie putt from the back of the green to stay alive. It stopped a few inches short.

Equally important for Day were the holes leading

up to the 18th. He made one of only four birdies at the 15th, and he holed a 50-foot putt on the 16th for one of only five birdies in the final round. From a plugged lie in a bunker at the 17th, he got up-and-down.

Day was among seven players who had at least a share of the lead on a Sunday that was more about survival than a shootout. □



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Trouble hasn't slowed down for NFL in 2015

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

Commissioner Roger Goodell declared at the Super Bowl that the NFL made "enormous progress" on social issues after last year's incessant barrage of disturbing developments, led by the Ray Rice domestic violence and Adrian Peterson child abuse crises. That bombardment hasn't much abated in 2015, with at least eight players arrested, a star suspended, an agent indicted and a Hall of Famer fired.

Also enmeshed in the headlines are Johnny Manziel checking himself into a treatment program and the murder trial of Aaron Hernandez getting under way.

All of this against the backdrop of the league's investigation into whether the Super Bowl champion Patriots surreptitiously provided under-inflated footballs for their AFC championship win.

"It's a discouraging start to the new year," said Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida. "But my hope is it's an anomaly for 2015."

That will hinge on whether discipline and dishonor — "the players aren't going to want to be mentioned



In this Jan. 30, 2015, file photo, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell participates in a news conference for the NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game in Phoenix.

Associated Press

in the same story as Ray Rice or Adrian Peterson" — serve as deterrents to further transgressions, he said. The players' union maintains it's not a one-way street, noting that several instances of owner misconduct went unpunished last year, raising questions about the congruity of Goodell's discipline. The union cited the cases of the Vikings' Ziggy Wilf, the Cowboys' Jerry Jones and the Browns' Jimmy Haslam. "Anytime there are off-field incidents by players, we are disappointed, but we need to put things in some perspective," NFLPA president Eric Winston said. "These incidents are exceptions and not reflective of our membership. This union is focused on supporting

per every day you're going to read about DUIs, speeding tickets, incidents at nightclubs. But it wouldn't be anybody's name you would recognize."

Not so when it's an NFL player.

"The one thing that we have to be careful about is to think it's all of a sudden gotten worse or these guys are different," Dungy said. "I think we can get lost in 'Oh yeah, we had 10 or 12 incidents and forget that the other 1,790 guys are doing quite well.'"

Troy Vincent, NFL executive vice president for football operations, said: "Our

—Colts linebackers Josh McNary (rape), D'Qwell Jackson (assault) and Andrew Jackson (drunken driving);

—Packers defensive tackle Letroy Guion (drugs);

—Saints pass rusher Junior Galette (assault);

—Jets running back Chris Johnson (weapons);

—Bears cornerback Tim Jennings (drunken driving). In Kansas, police are investigating a domestic abuse claim against Cowboys running back Joseph Randle made by an ex-girlfriend a day after his arrest at a Kansas hotel on a drug charge that's been dropped. The probe continues.

Browns receiver Josh Gordon was suspended for violating the league's substance-abuse policy. Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell received 15 months' probation in a first-offender's program following his August arrest on marijuana charges. Cardinals running back Jonathan Dwyer pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and was placed on probation in a case stemming from alleged assaults on his wife last year.

And Warren Sapp was fired as an NFL Network analyst after his arrest on suspicion of soliciting a prostitute and allegedly assaulting two women.

Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy faces possible NFL discipline even though prosecutors Monday dismissed domestic violence charges against him after the accuser couldn't be found.

Finally, there's the specter of Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston going No. 1 in the draft despite a history of questionable off-field behavior.

Dungy said he didn't think most teams would place a higher priority this year on character given all that's transpired, insisting, "Guys with talent are always going to have a place to play." □



In this Dec. 21, 2014, file photo, Cleveland Browns' Josh Gordon (12) stretches before an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

players, educating players, fighting for due process and fairness. We are not opposed to discipline as we believe everyone should be held accountable for their actions, but there is so much attention on discipline that the other areas tend to get ignored in the public. We will not ignore them."

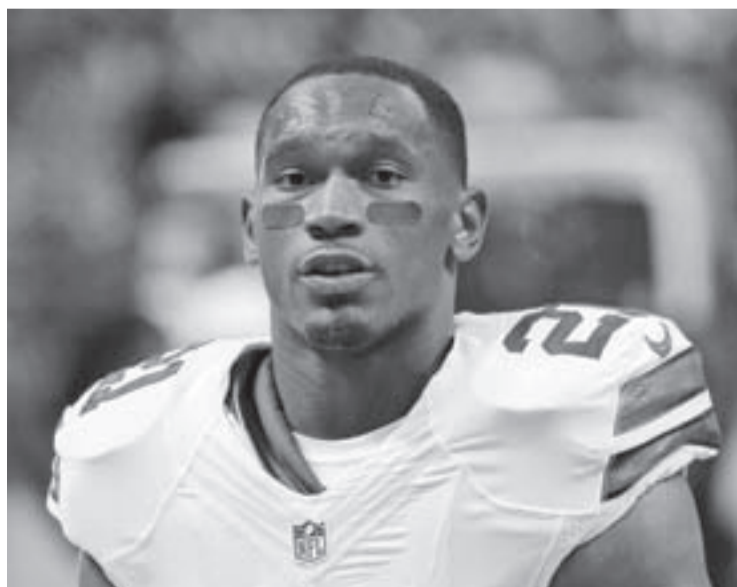
Former NFL coach Tony Dungy suggested the players' alleged misdeeds are reflective of society at large, commonplace when young players go from strict schedules to offseason freedom.

"It's always a dangerous time and it kind of happens every year," Dungy said. "If you just read the local pa-

young men are presented with the greatest platform in the world and how they carry that responsibility determines public perception. Our efforts are focused every day on raising the standard of excellence. We take the approach of shared responsibility and personal accountability in that we have resources and mentors in place to assist these young men where they are challenged. It is their responsibility to utilize them.

"We continue to work each day to bring out the best in all who are associated with the game of football."

A steady stream of arrests and charges since Jan. 1 include:



In this Nov. 10, 2013, file photo, Dallas Cowboys running back Joseph Randle (21) warms up before an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans.

Associated Press

Report: Automakers fail to fully protect against hacking

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Automakers are cramming cars with wireless technology, but they have failed to adequately protect those features against the real possibility that hackers could take control of vehicles or steal personal data, according to an analysis of information that manufacturers provided to a senator.

Democratic Sen. Edward Markey asked automakers a series of questions about the technologies and any safeguards against hackers built into their vehicles. He also asked about how the information that vehicle computers gather and often transmit wirelessly is protected.

Markey posed his questions after researchers showed how hackers can get into the controls of some popular cars and SUVs, causing them suddenly to accelerate, turn, sound the horn, turn headlights off or on and modify speedometer and gas-gauge readings. The responses from 16 manufacturers "reveal there is a clear lack of appropriate security measures to protect drivers against hackers who may be able to take control of a vehicle or against those who may wish to collect and use personal driver information," a report by Markey's staff concludes.

Today's cars and light trucks typically contain more than 50 electronic control units — effectively small computers — that are part of a network in the car. At the same time, nearly all new cars on the market today include at least some wireless entry points to these computers, such as tire pressure monitoring systems, Bluetooth, Internet access, keyless entry, remote start, navigation systems, WiFi, anti-theft systems and cellular-telematics, the report said. Only three automakers said they still have some models without wireless entry, but those models are a small and declining share of their fleets.



FILE - In this June 18, 2012 file photo, Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. Automakers are cramming cars with wireless technology, but they have failed to adequately protect those features against the real possibility that hackers could take control of vehicles or steal personal data, according to an analysis of information that manufacturers provided to Sen. Markey.

"Drivers have come to rely on these new technologies, but unfortunately the automakers haven't done their part to protect us from cyberattacks or privacy invasions," Markey said in a statement.

Among the report's findings:

— Most manufacturers said they were unaware of or unable to report on past hacking incidents. Three automakers declined to answer the question. One automaker described an app designed by an outside company and released for Android devices that could access a vehicle's computer network through the Bluetooth connection. A security analysis didn't indicate any ability to introduce malicious code or steal data, but the

automaker had the app removed from the Google Play store as a precautionary measure.

— Each manufacturer is handling the introduction of new technology in very different ways, and for the most part these actions are insufficient to ensure security. Hackers can get around most security protections cited by manufacturers, according to the security experts Markey consulted.

— Only one manufacturer appeared able to detect a hacking attempt while it was happening and only two described credible means of responding to such intrusions in real time. Information from most automakers indicated they wouldn't know about a hacking attempt unless data from the vehicle's

computers was downloaded by a dealer or at a service center.

Most new cars are also capable of collecting large amounts of data on a vehicle's driving history through an array of pre-installed technologies, including navigation systems, telematics, infotainment, emergency assistance systems and remote disabling devices that allow car dealers to track and disable vehicles whose

drivers don't keep up with their payments or that are reported stolen, the report said.

Last November, 19 automakers accounting for most of the passenger cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. agreed on a set of principles to protect motorists' privacy. The voluntary agreement was aimed in part at heading off possible legislation. Markey has said voluntary efforts don't go far enough.

Associated Press



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Nissan raises profit forecast after sales grow in US, Europe

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP)—Nissan raised its earnings forecast for the fiscal year after reporting a nearly 21 percent jump in quarterly profit as a cheap yen amplified strong overseas sales. The Japanese automaker said Monday that sales were strong in the U.S. and Europe and the cheap yen boosted overseas rev-

enue, offsetting a decline in its home market. Nissan Motor Co., allied with Renault SA of France, reported a better-than-expected 101.8 billion yen (\$856 million) net profit for October-December. Analysts surveyed by FactSet had expected about 83 billion yen (\$697 million) in quarterly profit. Quarterly sales surged about 17 percent to 2.94

trillion yen (\$24.7 billion), which was also better than forecasts. Yokohama-based Nissan, which makes the Leaf electric car, the Altima sedan and Infiniti luxury models, expects a 420 billion yen (\$3.5 billion) profit for the fiscal year through March, marking an 8 percent rise year-on-year. Previously, it had projected a 405 billion yen (\$3.4 bil-

lion) profit. The automaker raised its annual sales forecast to 11.15 trillion yen (\$93.7 billion) from 10.8 trillion yen (\$908 billion). The weakening yen has lifted results at Japanese exporters such as Nissan. Nissan said the dollar averaged 114 yen in the October-December quarter compared with 100 yen in the same quarter a year

earlier. Nissan Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn is calling it a "normalizing yen-dollar exchange rate," as he has repeatedly said the yen had been too strong. "We anticipate good full-year results as our product offensive and positive momentum in North American and Western Europe offsets volatility in other markets," he said. □

Stocks stumble as concerns mount over China, Greece

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Concerns about the world economy helped tug U.S. stocks lower on Monday as worries mount over Greece's standoff with its creditors. Major indexes headed

lower at the opening of trading, following European markets down. A rebound in crude oil drove energy stocks higher. With no major reports on the U.S. economy to hold their attention, investors looked abroad. "There's still a lot of uncer-

tainty around Greece," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank. "It's one of these tectonic plates shifting around the financial system." Greece's new prime minister, Alexis Tsipras, set his government on a collision

course with the country's creditors. In a speech on Sunday, Tsipras declared an end to a regimen of budget cuts and tax increases and said he would push for a short-term loan to give the country and its creditors time to negotiate a new arrangement to replace its bailout program. Greece and its international creditors were expected to take up the issue later this week. For investors, the worry is that if Greece drops the European currency, it could have unpredictable consequences for the wider financial system. One fear is that other countries with much larger economies might follow Greece out the door.

The Standard & Poor's 500 slipped 8.73 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 2,046.74. Of the 10 sectors in the index, only energy companies finished higher. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 95.08 points, or 0.5 percent, to 17,729.21, while the Nasdaq composite fell 18.39

points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,726.01.

Hasbro jumped \$3.92, or 7 percent, to \$59.66 after the toy company turned in stronger quarterly results. Sales of toys geared toward boys surged, led by Transformers, Nerf and Marvel-brand action heroes. Hasbro also raised its dividend and expanded plans to buy back its own shares.

McDonald's reported that a key measure of global sales shrank last month, as sales slumped across the Middle East, Africa and Asia. The world's biggest hamburger chain dropped \$1.27, or 1 percent, to \$92.72.

This week marks the halfway point for the fourth-quarter earnings season, and the results are shaping up better than Wall Street had expected. Seven out of 10 big companies have turned in higher profits than analysts had forecast, putting overall earnings on track to rise 7 percent for the full quarter, according to S&P Capital IQ. □



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015. U.S. stocks closed lower, following declines in overseas markets on weak Chinese trade data and more worries about Greece's finances. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Boys rule at Hasbro as superheroes, Transformers lift 4Q

PAWTUCKET, R.I. (AP)—The appetite for superheroes and robots in disguise led to a healthy fourth-quarter at Hasbro even as a shift toward electronics has challenged the traditional toy industry. Hasbro said Monday that sales of toys geared toward boys increased 21 percent, with a strong showing from Transformers, Nerf and Marvel. The company boosted its quarterly dividend and in-

creased the number of its own shares targeted for buybacks. There were two hurdles during the quarter: the strong U.S. dollar and declining sales in toys for girls. Hasbro's rival Mattel, which makes the Barbie doll, has seen a similar decline recently. Hasbro said revenue would have climbed 7 percent if it weren't for a \$93.4 million drag from foreign exchange.

Net income reached \$169.9 million, or \$1.34 per share, for the quarter. Earnings adjusted for pretax gains came to \$1.22 per share, which was in line with Wall Street expectations, according to a poll by Zacks Investment Research. Revenue climbed to \$1.3 billion from \$1.28 billion, but that was still short of the \$1.34 billion analysts were looking for, according to Zacks.

Sales of merchandise for girls fell 10 percent during the quarter and game sales declined 4 percent. Last month Mattel Inc. said that weak Barbie doll sales weighed down its fourth quarter. That company's chairman and CEO resigned. Hasbro in September wrested the rights from Mattel for the dolls of Disney's blockbuster "Frozen," and will begin producing them next year.

For 2015, Hasbro reported a profit of \$415.9 million, or \$3.20 per share. Its adjusted profit was \$3.15 per share, which was better than expected. Revenue was \$4.28 billion and, like the quarter, fell a bit short of projections. Hasbro raised its quarterly dividend by 7 percent to 46 cents per share, from 43 cents per share. The dividend will be paid on May 15 to shareholders of record on May 1. □

A Game of Chicken



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2015 New York Times

On Wednesday last week, the European Central Bank announced that it would no longer accept Greek government debt as collateral for loans. This move, it turns out, was more symbolic than substantive. Still, the moment of truth is clearly approaching.

And it's a moment of truth not just for Greece, but for the whole of Europe - and, in particular, for the central bank, which may soon have to decide who it really works for.

Basically, the current situation may be summarized with the following dialogue:

Germany to Greece: Nice banking system you got there. Be a shame if something were to happen to it.

Greece to Germany: Oh, yeah? Well, we'd hate to see your nice, shiny European Union get all banged up.

Or if you want the stuffier version, Germany is demanding that Greece keep trying to pay its debts in full by imposing incredibly harsh austerity. The implied threat if Greece refuses is that the central bank will cut off the support it gives to Greek banks, which is what Wednesday's move sounded like but wasn't. And that would wreak havoc with Greece's already terrible economy.

Yet pulling the plug on Greece would pose enormous risks, not just to Europe's economy, but to the whole European project, the 60-year effort to build peace and democracy through shared prosperity. Greek banking collapse would probably lead Greece to leave the euro and establish its own currency - and if even one country were to abandon the euro, investors would be put on notice that Europe's grand currency design is reversible.

Beyond that, chaos in Greece could fuel the sinister political forces that have been gaining influence as Europe's Second Great Depression goes on and on. After a tense meeting with his German counterpart, the new Greek finance minister didn't hesitate to play the 1930s card. "Nazism," he declared, "is raising its ugly head in Greece" - a reference to Golden Dawn, the not-so-neo-Nazi party that is now the third largest in the Greek legislature.

What we're looking at here is, in short, a very dangerous confrontation. This isn't diplomacy as

usual; this is a game of chicken, of two trucks loaded with dynamite barreling toward each other on a narrow mountain road, with neither willing to turn aside. And all of this is taking place within the European Union, which is supposed to be - indeed, has been, until now - an institution that promotes productive cooperation. How did Europe get to this point? And what's the end game? Like all too many crises, the new Greek crisis stems, ultimately, from political pandering. It's the kind of thing that happens when politicians tell voters what they want to hear, make promises that can't be fulfilled, and then can't bring themselves to face reality and make the hard choices they've been pretending can be avoided.

I am, of course, talking about Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, and her colleagues.

It's true that Greece got itself into trouble through irresponsible borrowing (although this irresponsible borrowing wouldn't have been possible without equally irresponsible lending). And Greece has paid a terrible price for that irresponsibility. Looking forward, however, how much more can Greece take? Clearly, it can't pay the debt in full; that's obvious to anyone who has done the math.

Unfortunately, German politicians have never explained the math to their constituents. Instead, they've taken the lazy path: moralizing about the irresponsibility of borrowers, declaring that debts must and will be paid in full, playing into stereotypes about shiftless southern Europeans. And now that the Greek electorate has finally declared that it can take no more, German officials just keep repeating the same old lines.

Maybe the Germans imagine that they can replay the events of 2010, when the central bank coerced Ireland into accepting an austerity program by threatening to cut off its banking system. But that's unlikely to work against a government that has seen the damage wrought by austerity, and was elected on a promise to reverse that damage. Furthermore, there's still reason to hope that the European Central Bank will refuse to play along.

On Wednesday, the central bank made an announcement that sounded like severe punishment for Greece, but wasn't, because it left the really important channel of support for Greek banks (Emergency Liquidity Assistance - don't ask) in place. So it was more of a wake-up call than anything else, and arguably it was as much a wake-up call for Germany as it was for Greece.

And what if the Germans don't wake up? In that case, we can hope that the central bank takes a stand and declares that its proper role is to do all it can to safeguard Europe's economy and democratic institutions - not to act as Germany's debt collector. As I said, we're rapidly approaching a moment of truth. □



Politics by Restaurant Review



GAIL COLLINS
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Today, we're going to talk about "God, Guns, Grits and Gravy," Mike Huckabee's entry into the presidential book-writing sweepstakes. These tomes are going to be piling up soon, and remember: We read them so you don't have to.

Huckabee is an excellent place to start since his book points to one of the terrible truths of presidential politics: It changes everybody who gets into it, generally for the worse, frequently for the awful.

Some presidential hopefuls just stick their toes into the water and, instantly, they're gorgon versions of themselves. Look at what's happened to Chris Christie and Rand Paul. Five minutes ago, a lot of people thought they were a little weird but kind of cool. Now things are trending toward really weird and kind of mean.

Remember what happened to John McCain. Remember John Edwards? Maybe the secret strength of Hillary Clinton's campaign is that since she's been through this so many times, we can relax and assume she's already been turned into whatever she's going to turn into.

While Mike Huckabee is almost certainly not going to be the Republican presidential nominee,

he is a real candidate.

Won the Iowa caucuses in 2008. And he just quit his cushy job interviewing people on Fox to get back into the game. So, give the man some cred.

He's also a natural to produce the first presidential-prospect book of 2015. Huckabee churns out books the way other people produce emails. And you have to be impressed by a guy whose oeuvre includes both "Can't Wait Till Christmas!" and "Kids Who Kill."

The theme of his newest is that there are two Americas: the coastal one inhabited by the media elite and the fly-over zone where the real people live. But, frequently, Huckabee forgets his topic and just starts ranting about the good old days when kids built forts out of cardboard boxes and men didn't cuss in front of a woman.

Or he'll spend a chapter or two doing an imitation of your awful Uncle Fred at Thanksgiving, complaining about airport security lines and dirty lyrics in popular music.

When Huckabee does get around to the two Americas, which he calls "Bubble-ville" and "Bubba-ville," he makes it clear that despite his recent career as host of a national cable TV talk show, he is down with the humble Bubbas. "If people don't put pepper sauce on their black-eyed peas or order fried green tomatoes for an appetizer, I probably won't relate to them without some effort," he writes. Well, there goes Ohio.

Think about that statement. We're already tortured by the red-state-blue-state chasm. Now we're going to divide ourselves by restaurant orders? The first rule for anyone who aspires to lead this country is that you have to at least pretend that you can relate to all its citizens. It is for this reason that health-conscious men and women who compulsively watch their fat intake will be seen wandering around the Iowa State

Fair next summer, eating fried Twinkies.

Also, by the way, Huckabee doesn't really feel comfortable around "people who have never fired a gun, never fished with a cane pole, never cooked with propane, or never changed a tire."

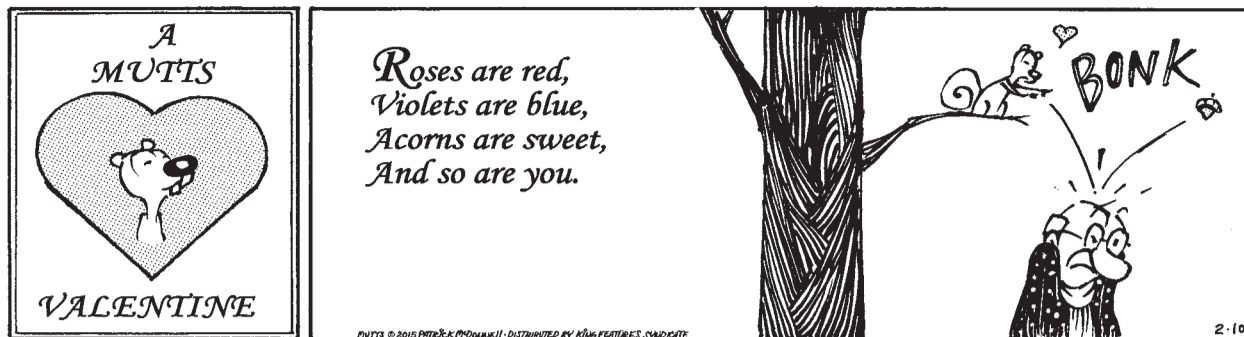
Mike Huckabee has always run as an evangelical Christian, and when he first campaigned for president in 2008, his message was religious and inclusive. He was rigid on abortion, but he also called for compassion for illegal immigrants. ("It hardly seems Americans should truly feel threatened by people who pluck chickens, pick tomatoes, make beds, wash dishes or mow lawns.") During the debates, he was generally regarded as the most likable guy on the stage.

But, of course, he didn't win. Now he's still going for religion; he devotes a chapter to explaining God's opposition to gay marriage. But his view about helping the unfortunate gets more crabbed by the minute.

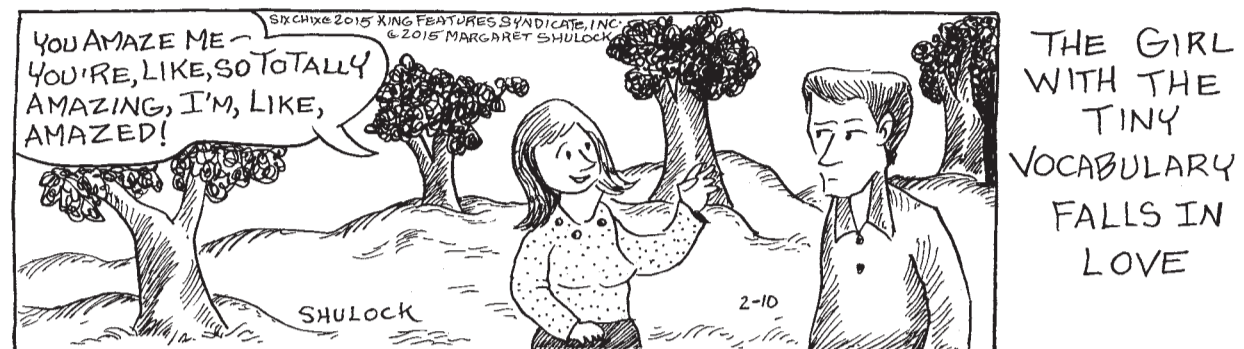
My favorite moment in "God, Guns, Grits and Gravy" is the one where Huckabee singles out President Grover Cleveland for special praise. You hardly ever find Grover in a presidential campaign book. I am kind of a Grover fan myself, mainly because he was involved in one of the most interesting sex scandals in U.S. presidential history. However, Huckabee sends him a shout-out for vetoing a bill that would have appropriated \$10,000 to provide seeds to Texas farmers who had been laid low by a terrible drought. ("He knew not to try to redefine the role of the federal government.") There goes Texas.

Correction: In my column Thursday, I wrongly referred to "God, Guns, Grits and Gravy" as "God, Guts, Grits and Gravy." Although I like my version better, it was a typographical error. In the sense that I made the error while typing. □

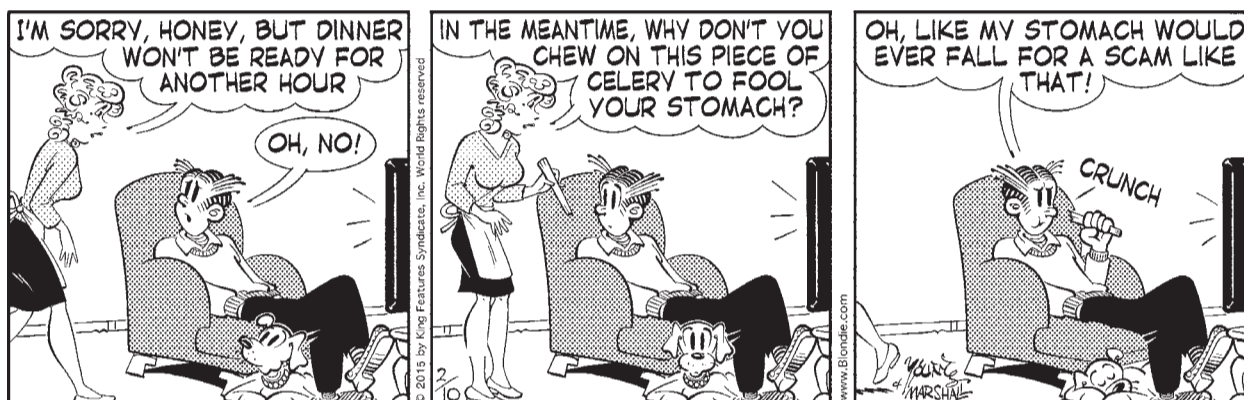
Mutts



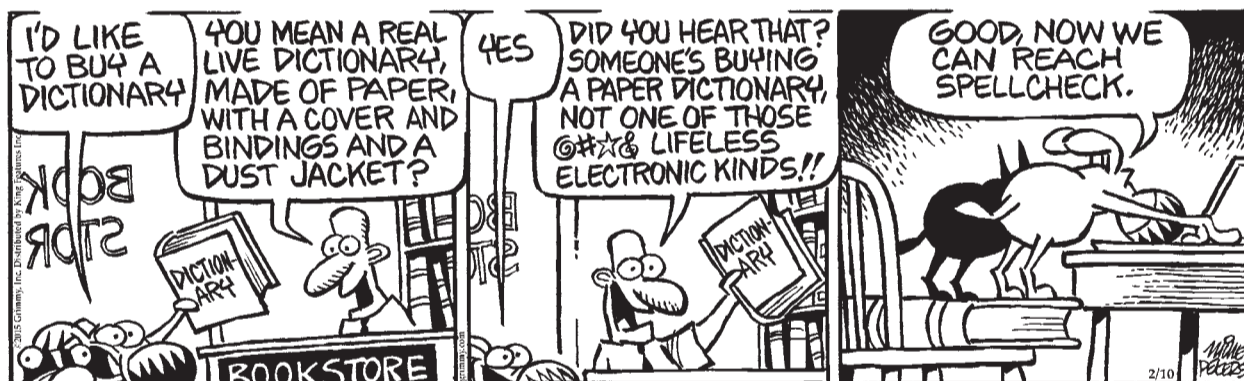
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3				8		
				7		4		
1		5	8	4				7
		9	6			5		
		1		5		2		
	5				3	6		
2				6	9	5		3
	4		2					
		6				1		

Difficulty Level ★★

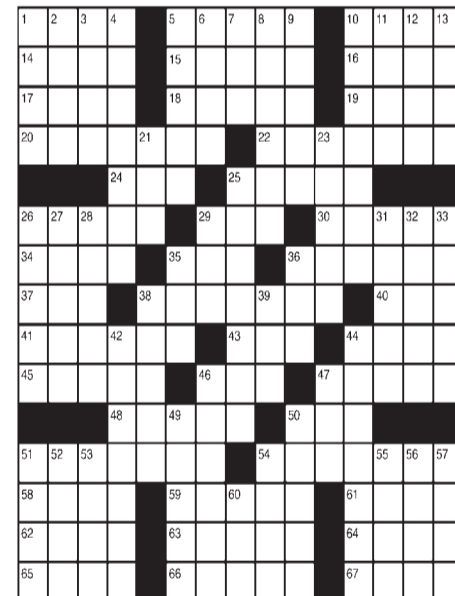
2/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	7	5	6	3	4	1	2	8	9
	9	8	4	6	7	2	3	1	5
	1	2	3	8	9	5	6	4	7
	8	1	5	2	6	4	7	9	3
	2	3	9	5	1	7	8	6	4
	6	4	7	9	8	3	1	5	2
	4	9	8	7	2	6	5	3	1
	5	6	2	1	3	9	4	7	8
	3	7	1	4	5	8	9	2	6

ACROSS

- Freeway entrance
- Blaze residue
- In a __; quickly
- "The Buckeye State"
- Fete for a celebrity
- Relinquish
- Roused
- Slogan
- Level, as a building
- Cowboy hat
- Dispute settler
- __shattering; very loud
- __ bath; sauna
- Necklace fastener
- Biggest club
- Incites
- Boat propellers
- Student's avg.
- Handgun
- Geisha's sash
- Embezzle; take illegally
- Fraternity letter
- Diminish
- Used a shovel
- Kennedy and Turner
- Smooth and shiny
- Wager
- Too severe
- Carried
- Yakety-yak
- Clay molders
- Love story
- British noble
- Had a bug
- Convince
- "How do I love __? Let me..."
- Just right
- Stuff
- Takes to court
- Suspicious
- Likelihood



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/10/15

Monday's Puzzle Solved

LUNGS	GLAD	MASS
OPERA	RICE	ABLE
PORED	EATS	RUIN
ENDANGER	PHASED	
SEAT	LOITERS	
OGRESS	BOTCH	
DOE	SEALS	KODAK
DANS	SHIER	NIKE
STOIC	ENSUE	RIP
CREAK	LAMENT	
TANKARD	HERO	
ORANGE	MUSHROOM	
GENE	CRAB	ATONE
ANNS	TOMB	RAZES
SAYS	STAY	TRESS

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2/10/15

DOWN

- Quarrels
- "Cat on __ Tin Roof"
- Voice amplifier
- Dickinson or Angelou
- Knight's coat of protection
- In just a bit
- Sombrero
- Manor and its grounds
- Market
- Is frugal
- __ as a pin
- Shaping tool
- Look through a keyhole
- Tree secretion
- Sink
- Burned with liquid
- Puts in the fridge
- Can wrapper
- Ascend
- Spring month: abbr.
- Complete; total
- Highways
- Partially melted snow
- Rev the engine

- Sty resident
- Tea variety
- Not at home
- Quits relocating
- Hot sauce
- Next to
- Pork product
- Mountain path
- Divine
- House animals
- Hawaiian island
- Cedar or alder
- Back part
- Bookish fellow
- __ in; wearing
- Lawn trees
- Mr. Iacocca

Open skies

Continued from Page 7

"Pointedly, its statement adds: "Unlike foreign carriers, U.S. airlines serve small, rural and other nonhub communities throughout the country. More profitable international operations enable domestic carriers to provide service to less profitable small and rural markets."

There is consumer push-back against the major domestic airlines' initiatives, of course. Carriers in the United States have gained antitrust immunity on alliances and other route and marketing agreements they share with select foreign partners, said Kevin Mitchell, the chairman of the Business Travel Coalition, which promotes the interests of corporate travel managers. With that gained, he said, domestic airlines want to limit competition from foreign carriers.

We'll be hearing a lot more this year from the American airline industry, its foreign competitors and business-travel consumer interests, as domestic carriers push harder for government intervention in unwanted foreign expansions. In recent years, domestic airlines and their foreign partners have prided themselves on what they call "capacity discipline" - keeping supply and demand in balance to maintain fare levels, using skillfully calibrated international strategies.

For this quarter, American Airlines, concerned about possible oversupply from increased competition over the Atlantic, reduced its trans-Atlantic capacity by 8 percent. And in a conference call with stock market analysts last month, United's chief executive, Jeffery A. Smisek, replied to a question about capacity with a dig at foreign competitors' expansion tactics: "Well, I do think that the capacity discipline that has been shown by U.S. carriers is not necessarily shown by international carriers." □

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February 10

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Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

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Foundation

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Twists, turns, eventually lead to promising Ebola vaccine

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took 16 years of twists and turns. Over and over, Dr. Nancy Sullivan thought she was close to an Ebola vaccine, only to see the next experiment fail.

"A case of resuscitation more than once," is how the U.S. National Institutes of Health researcher describes the journey.

But it is those failures that Sullivan credits for finally leading her to a vaccine promising enough to test in parts of West Africa ravaged by Ebola. Last week, volunteers in Liberia's capital began rolling up their sleeves for the first large-scale testing of two potential Ebola vaccines, the one Sullivan developed at NIH and a similar one created by Canada's government.

Sullivan just hopes it was in time to prove whether the shots really work.

Ebola has claimed nearly 9,000 lives in West Africa over the past year, although new infections have dropped dramatically in recent months. It's too soon to declare victory: Last week, new cases inched up for the first time this year, and health officials fear a resurgence if they don't completely stamp out the disease before the upcoming rainy season.

Waning cases make it more difficult to tell if a vaccine is protective, but the shots will be tested in multiple places and ways "hoping that one of those will give us real data," said Dr. Bruce Aylward of the World Health Organization.

Getting to that step is a story of nitty-gritty laboratory science, the kind that

seldom makes headlines.

"You don't know what's going to be important 15 years from now," noted Sullivan, a cell biologist who kept hitting roadblocks as she tried to unravel enough mysteries of the immune system to create an Ebola vaccine.

"You need a failure to know what immune responses aren't helpful, as difficult as they were at the

1976, the virus cropped up every few years in remote parts of Africa, killed dozens to a few hundred people with horrifying swiftness and retreated back into the jungle again. Early vaccine attempts had failed.

"The thinking was, this virus was too aggressive, it's not possible to mount an immune response in sufficient time," recalled Sul-

livan, who followed Nabel to NIH and now heads biodefense vaccine research there. Most vaccines spur production of immune system antibodies that block a virus from entering cells, but Sullivan didn't think that would be enough for Ebola, a large virus that infects in an unusual way.

Gene-based vaccines can induce additional virus fighters called T cells, so that's what Sullivan created with pieces of Ebola genetic material. In July 1999, colleagues emailed

that they'd given her vaccine to monkeys and measured a big immune reaction. Sullivan recently showed President Barack Obama the lab notebook where she'd scribbled her reaction: "Yahoo!"

In November 2000, Sullivan and Nabel reported in the journal *Nature* that four vaccinated monkeys survived an otherwise lethal dose of Ebola.

people who've had that particular cold virus. Using rare human adenoviruses didn't work at all; finally a chimpanzee cold virus did the trick.

Along the way came multiple monkey studies to learn exactly what kind of T cells to target.

"Lots of shoes have dropped," is how she describes all the frustration. Sullivan had a few years' head start but after the 2001 anthrax attack other laboratories scrambled to study Ebola and other possible bioterrorist agents. Soon after, the Public Health Agency of Canada reported creating its own Ebola vaccine using a livestock virus to carry the genetic material — the second vaccine currently being tested in that large study in Liberia.

"Thank God we had some of these" underway, said Ebola expert Thomas Geisbert of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, an early collaborator on the Canadian vaccine who helped with some of Sullivan's initial work and now researches treatments. "You can't do that research in six months."

As the Liberian vaccine study gets under way, work hasn't paused back in Sullivan's lab. Her research in monkeys suggests long-lasting protection will require a special booster shot, something yet to begin Phase 1 safety testing in people. She goes to Congo, where Ebola first was discovered, about twice a year for research. "It isn't the case where you discover something and instantly move it to humans," Sullivan wants the public to understand. "There are lots of pitfalls." □



In this photo taken Feb. 4, 2015, Dr. Nancy Sullivan, chief, Biodefense Research Section, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks in her office at the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

time," she said.

It all started in the late 1990s, when Sullivan, who had just earned her Ph.D. at Harvard, landed a new job at the University of Michigan. She wanted to study how Ebola infects cells, but her boss, Dr. Gary Nabel, gave her a bigger assignment: develop a vaccine capable of protecting monkeys.

Back then, the average person probably knew of Ebola only from Richard Preston's best-seller "The Hot Zone" or the movie "Outbreak." Discovered in

livan, who followed Nabel to NIH and now heads biodefense vaccine research there.

Most vaccines spur production of immune system antibodies that block a virus from entering cells, but Sullivan didn't think that would be enough for Ebola, a large virus that infects in an unusual way.

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"For the first time, a vaccine protected monkeys against the lethal Ebola virus, raising doctors' hopes of developing a means of inoculating people against the terrifying disease," The Associated Press reported at the time.

But her vaccine required multiple shots over several months, not useful during an outbreak. Sullivan scaled back, using a human cold virus, called an adenovirus, to carry the Ebola genetic material in one shot. Then she learned it wouldn't work in

Associated Press

Book Review:

'Crazy Love You' is complex and surprising

JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

Lisa Unger takes what appears to be a tale of finding true love and adds in a nightmare element in her latest chiller, "Crazy Love You."

Ian tells his story of trying to escape the past and find a blissful existence. When he was growing up, he was bullied for his size, and his mother murdered his baby sister. If not for the compassion of a young classmate named Priss, he would have died that night as well. As he got older, he got thinner, and Priss was by his side.

In the present, he has become a successful graphic novelist with a series called "Fatboy and Priss," with stories clearly based on his life. One afternoon at a park, he sees a woman named Megan and is immediately enthralled. He must draw her face. After a few days of following her, Megan confronts Ian and demands an answer as to why he's stalking her. He realizes he's in love.

Ian knows he has to change in order to win Megan's heart, but Priss is prone to jealousy, and she doesn't appreciate a new woman in Ian's life.

The emotional roller coaster that Ian rides over the course of this novel is both exhilarating and gut-wrenching. The reader wants him to succeed and find love with the sweet Megan. Priss plays like the perfect villain to upset the proceedings, and she has the best motive of all to keep them apart: Priss loves Ian, though she refuses to admit it.

The seemingly straightforward story proves to be complex and surprising in several ways, and Unger has a gift for telling a story with great characters while also manipulating



This book cover image released by Touchstone shows "Crazy Love You," by Lisa Unger.

Associated Press

the reader.

Love can be passionate and consuming, but it can also be heartbreaking and painful. For Ian and Megan, there is also hope. It's crazy good. □

Backstreet Boys are back as men

MARCELA ISAZA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Backstreet Boys are back as grown men, ready to share a documentary about their rise to fame.

"Backstreet Boys: Show 'em What You're Made Of," now in U.S. theaters, started off as a small project, filming the guys during a three-week recording session. After finishing a 20-minute promo, the band decided to make a full-length film.

"Our story, our life after 22 years," said Nick Carter. "It wasn't like we need to do this movie right now and it has to happen, it just organically did."

The Backstreet Boys have experienced highs and lows. They say making a comeback 20 years later and introducing themselves to new fans as grown men in a "boy band" is scary.

"In general every album we've made even when we were on top of the

'Better Call Saul' sparks excitement in Albuquerque

RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — New Mexico's largest city is back to being featured in another television show more than a year after the end of AMC-TV series "Breaking Bad." "Better Call Saul" premiered Sunday, and city officials hope the prequel to the hit series sparks more interest in Albuquerque after "Breaking Bad" spawned tours, sales of novelty items and even a political ad during the last election.

More than 100 fans showed up for a premiere "Better Call Saul" viewing party at an Albuquerque brewery, and more such gatherings are scheduled for the remainder of the season. One lawyer, Ron Bell, who some speculate the show's main character is loosely based on, has a billboard advertising "Better Call



Bob Odenkirk attends the 92Y In Conversation with the cast of AMC's "Better Call Saul" at the 92nd Street Y on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

Ron Bell."

Already the city's visitors' bureau has created a

website to help tourists find Albuquerque sites from the show.

New Mexico's new Attorney General Hector Balderas even thumbed out a tweet during the show to let its main star, Bob Odenkirk, know that the state's top cop was watching him. "Hey @BetterCallSaul @mrBobOdenkirk, know that the Attorney General of New Mexico will be keeping an eye on you this evening," Balderas wrote. "Better Call Saul" follows a struggling criminal lawyer born Jimmy McGill, who later changes his name to Saul Goodman, as he defends drug lords, petty criminals and those allegedly injured in traffic accidents.

In "Breaking Bad," Odenkirk played the lawyer of methamphetamine lord Walter White, played by Bryan Cranston.

Tania Armenta, a vice president for the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau, said interest in "Breaking Bad" Albuquerque sites has not slowed, and they remain particularly popular with European tourists. City officials expect even more interest with "Better Call Saul." □



In this Jan. 27, 2015 file photo, AJ McLean, from left, Howie Dorough, Nick Carter, Kevin Richardson, and Brian Littrell of the Backstreet Boys pose for a portrait in promotion of their upcoming theatrical documentary "Show 'Em What You're Made Of" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

world and on top of the charts, that was a scary process, and it still is to this day," said Kevin Richardson. The band talked in depth about Lou Pearlman, the mastermind behind the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, who operated an investment scam and was sentenced to prison.

"It really wasn't being tak-

en care of until you open your eyes and go, 'Damn. We should have looked out for one another, we should've helped one another,'" says Brian Littrell. "I think this is the story that really plays true to where we are today, basically boys to men, and we get to show the world what we are made of." □

Debate brews over whether Williams can survive controversy

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A vigorous debate over Brian Williams' future is brewing as "NBC Nightly News" airs Monday without the decade-long anchor.

Some critics suggest that Williams, who apologized last week for falsely claiming that he was in helicopter that had been hit by a grenade while in Iraq in 2003, should be fired. Others wonder if commerce will win out, since Williams has kept "Nightly News" at the top of the ratings while much of his news division crumbled around him. How much are the years of good work worth?

"This is one of the toughest calls that I've ever seen," said Paul Levinson, professor of communications and media studies at Fordham University. "On the one hand, the public is right to expect nothing but the truth from our reporters and our news anchors."

Williams announced Saturday he was stepping away entirely from the show for a few days. NBC News, which launched an internal probe, hasn't given a timetable for how long its look into Williams' statements,



In this Nov. 5, 2014 file photo, Brian Williams speaks at the 8th Annual Stand Up For Heroes, presented by New York Comedy Festival and The Bob Woodruff Foundation in New York.

Associated Press

coordinated by the division's investigative editor Richard Esposito, will take or if its report will be made public.

Levinson pointed out that this isn't a case of someone deliberately inventing news sources or, in the case of Dan Rather at CBS a decade ago, reporting during a presidential campaign a story casting doubt on President George W. Bush's wartime record that could not be backed up.

"The real difficulty for a news organization, or a reporter, is that once you've made one misstep, it's really hard

to earn (trust) back," said David Westin, former ABC News president. "You can. But it takes a lot of time. It takes a long period of time with proven performances. It takes a long time of getting it right."

The incident should remind news organizations that it's more important to report the news than "brand" their personalities, he said. More than 1,000 comments were posted to NBC's "Nightly News" Facebook page. The majority supported Williams, with some posters suggesting they wouldn't watch the broad-

cast until he returned. But some commenters said they wouldn't trust him again.

Williams took a pounding in the ratings for his final night on the air Friday, but it's unclear whether the drop in viewership was related to the controversy.

The Nielsen company said ABC's "World News Tonight" had 8.46 million viewers on Friday, while NBC's "Nightly News" had just under 8 million.

For this television season as a whole, Williams' newscast has led in the ratings by an average of roughly 600,000 viewers each night over ABC.

On Thursday, the night after Williams' apology, NBC beat ABC by about 800,000 viewers, Nielsen said.

Although NBC leads in the ratings this season as it has for much of the past decade, ABC's broadcast with David Muir does win occasional nights. ABC has beaten NBC on nine individual nights since the beginning of the TV season in September — six of them Friday nights, which in general is NBC's weakest evening. On the Friday before Williams made his admission, ABC won by 400,000

viewers.

Substitute Lester Holt takes over "Nightly News" Monday for an undetermined amount of time.

Meanwhile, another instance emerged of Williams appearing to embellish a wartime reporting experience.

Williams traveled to Israel in July 2006 to cover that country's military campaign against Hezbollah. The anchor reported on MSNBC that he flew in a Black Hawk helicopter with Israeli military officials at a height of 1,500 feet. He said he saw a trail of smoke and dust where Katyusha rockets had landed in the uninhabited Israeli countryside. Then, he said he witnessed two rockets being launched toward Israel some six miles from where he was flying, according to the network transcript.

In an interview at Fairfield University more than a year later, Williams said that Katyusha rockets passed "just underneath the helicopter I was riding in," according to a film of the interview, described in The Washington Post on Monday.

Williams was even more descriptive in an August 2006 appearance with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

"Here's a view of rockets I have never seen, passing underneath us, 1,500 feet beneath us," Williams said. "And we've got the gunner doors on this thing, and I'm saying to the general, some four-star, 'It wouldn't take much for them to adjust the aim and try to do a ring toss right through our open doors, would it?'"

Also Monday, the newspaper Stars and Stripes released a transcript of its interview with Williams last week, made before his apology, where he attempted to explain his story. Williams was asked about a claim by military involved in the 2003 Iraq mission that his helicopter was flying about an hour behind the Chinook helicopter that had been hit by the rocket-propelled grenade. □

Free poems from Audible may get you in Valentine's Day mood

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With Valentine's Day fast approaching, what better way to get you in the mood than some of the world's great love poems read aloud — for free?

Audible Inc., the world's largest seller of downloadable audiobooks, is offering a 30-minute collection of some the most beloved love poems narrated by actor Richard Armitage including "Sonnet 116" by William Shakespeare and Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress."

Starting Monday, the 15 poems will be available as a free download.

The list includes "She Walks In Beauty" by Lord Byron, "How Do I Love Thee?" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Maud" by Lord Alfred Tennyson, "Bright Star" by John Keats, "Annabel Lee," by Edgar Allan Poe, "I Carry Your Heart" by e. e. cummings and "Love's Philosophy," by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

"These are some of the most beautiful and most romantic verses ever written in the English language," said Armitage, a stage and film actor who was in the "The Hobbit" trilogy.

"I hope that those who are already admirers of these works enjoy my recitation,



In this Dec. 9, 2013 file photo, Richard Armitage arrives for the European Premiere of the movie "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" in Berlin, Germany.

Associated Press

and that those discovering them for the first time through this production fall in love with the melodious

and heartfelt poetry that makes Valentine's Day and every day just a little bit more romantic." □

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